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SKIN DIVER—JUNE—3

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The SKIN DIVER

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JUNE COVER

JOHN STEEL vividly portrays
with his brush what many artists
strive for years to achieve—a liv-
ing picture. This beautiful paint-
ing by Mr. Steel is perfect in
every scope, true and natural.
SWIM-FINs and Swim-Mask by
Voit (see advertisement on Page
42).



A RECENT UNDERWATER event that attracted considerable attention from the public, was the below-surface surgery performed at the bottom of Marineland's huge tank in Palos Verdes, California on one of the Oceanarium's prize pets, Charlie, the giant bat ray. Dr. H. George Blasdel, prominent Los Angeles surgeon (in white rubber cap) performed a corneal transplant of the sightless Charlie, so that the pet bat ray could see again—Photo courtesy of Northhill Air Lung.

BARWON HEADS, AUSTRALIA —

Noel Moreland, 11, and a friend were
walking down the beach here recently
when his friend dropped his armed spear-
gun. It went off and the spear flew
straight at Noel's head. The spear entered
his head just above the right ear and
penetrated approximately two inches.
After thorough x-ray examining and an
hour-long operation the spear was re-
moved. Noel is recovering satisfactorily
and will undoubtedly pick safety-minded
friends hereafter.

Weather Report from Los Angeles, Calif.

MAY 13, 1955

McFARLAND SAYS:

Highest temp. for the week.....71° F.

Lowest temp. for the week.....56° F.

Highest water temp.....62° F.

Lowest water temp.....60° F.

Winds.....2 to 7 MPH W.

Water.....Clear

Weather Report from Miami, Florida

MAY 2, 1955

CHARLIE ANDREWS SAYS:

Highest temp. for the week.....86° F.

Lowest temp. for the week.....60° F.

Highest water temp. for the week.....75° F.

Lowest water temp. for the week.....75° F.

Winds.....6 to 8 MPH S.E.

Water.....Very clear

DETROIT, MICHIGAN — The down-
town Y.M.C.A. is conducting a ten week
course on underwater safety. The in-
structors are Vic Gorguze and Razz
Martin of Aqua Sport Divers. At present
there are twenty-eight members in the
class. Four self-contained diving units are
furnished free for class instruction, along
with several pairs of fins and face masks.
Many members have their own diving
equipment, so everyone gets a chance to
use the equipment. The "Underwater
Safety" lessons are all based on a book of
the same name by E. R. Cross. Anyone
desiring information may contact Aqua
Sport Divers (see ad), their local
Y.M.C.A. or Bill Glynn, physical director
at the downtown "Y".—R. R. Martin

SOUTH AFRICA—Associated Divers
has been asked to put on a stand at the
National Hobbies Exhibition to be held
in Durban in July and we want to be
able to have one section of our stand
devoted to clubs in other countries. We
would like photographs no less than
12 inches square, preferably of individual
divers wearing breathing gear, the photo-
graphs to bear greetings to Associated
Divers from the person in the picture and
also from his club. Our stand is already
in the hands of the display artist and to
assist him to finish his design all material
for display should be sent as soon as
possible to the address below. It should
be packed well. We will do our best to
send to each club sending pictures a print
of the Associated Divers display stand.
Address: Associated Divers, Box 266
Farm Traction, Vryheid, Natal, South
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CHECK THESE SIX POINTS WHEN CHOOSING UNDERWATER BREATHING EQUIPMENT!

- ✓ **SCIENTIFIC DESIGN:** The Northill Air-Lung has been designed by the world's foremost designers and manufacturers of air pressure controls, the AiResearch Manufacturing Company, a division of Northill's parent company.
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- ✓ **RUGGED CONSTRUCTION:** Every part of the Northill Air-Lung is strong and durable. There are no flimsy components.
- ✓ **SAFETY FEATURES:** A foolproof regulator valve, a depth-compensated reserve air valve and a quick

release harness make the Northill Air-Lung the world's safest unit.

- ✓ **SHUT-OFF MOUTHPIECE VALVE:** New design prevents flooding and removes the need for non-return valves.
- ✓ **EASE OF MAINTENANCE:** The Air-Lung can be completely cleaned and put together again in ten minutes with only a screwdriver. No calibration is necessary.

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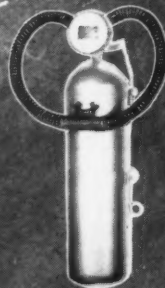
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(Cousteau-Gagnan License)



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The Seamless suit (dipped pure latex)
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Automatic! Self-winding!
GUARANTEED ACCURATE! 17 JEWELS!

MUCH MORE than just a
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 PRECISION DIVING INSTRUMENT
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2. Highly LUMINOUS MARKERS glow in dark, deep water.
3. Turning dive-timer dial. Set when dive starts—cannot be moved by accident.
4. Extra large, easy-to-read numerals and indicators.
5. U.S. Pat. Appl., completely STAINLESS STEEL TRIPLE CASE insures water tightness to depth of FIFTY FATHOMS.
6. SHOCKPROOF! INCABLOC shock absorber cushions shocks and prevents damage to movement.

After years of development in the Mediterranean by the world's foremost skin divers, the Blancpain "Fifty Fathoms" is now ready for release for civilian use. Frogmen of many navies rely on it exclusively to time their dives and accomplish their missions. The PRECISION and RELIABILITY of this instrument results from such factors as CRAFTSMANSHIP and SKILL which only a firm of over THREE CENTURIES of tradition can provide. A special, patented stainless steel case keeps water out. We GUARANTEE water-tightness to a depth of 50 fathoms (300 feet) as long as serviced and inspected by us. Each individual watch carries a certificate of WATERPROOF TESTING. Annual inspection and maintenance service policy available. The Blancpain "FIFTY FATHOMS" is the watch for those who insist on the very finest!

Here's how this marvelous skin-dive timer works: simply set the outer dial so that the diamond shape indicates time of start of dive. From that point on, you know exactly how long you've been down . . . how much longer you can remain down. The large, visible numerals are clearly readable even in pitch dark.

ORDER BY MAIL! TRY IT FOR 10-DAYS! WEAR IT! DIVE WITH IT! TEST IT FOR ACCURACY! IF YOU DON'T AGREE IT'S THE FINEST PRODUCT OF ITS KIND, RETURN IT FOR FULL REFUND! ACT NOW! WE SEND IMMEDIATELY!



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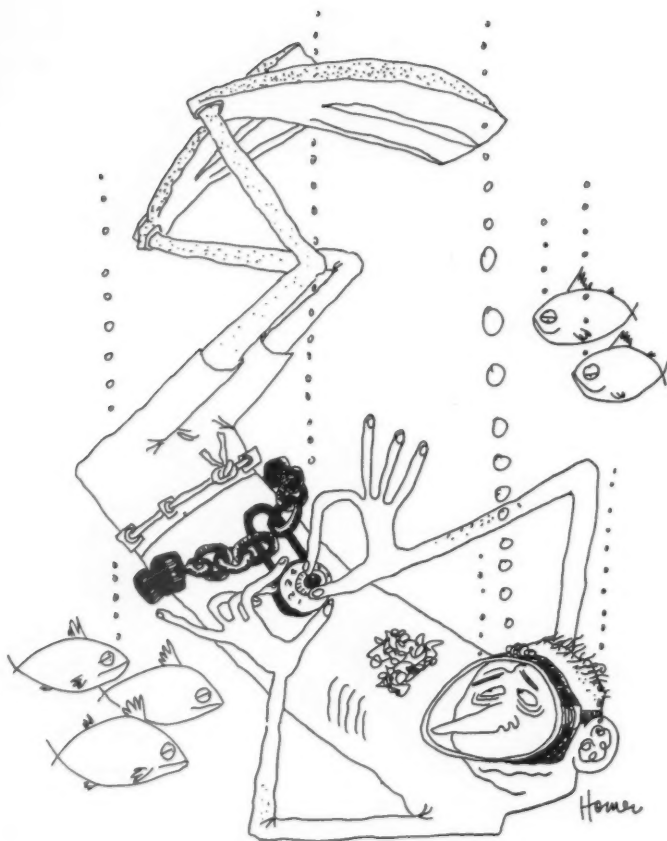
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75 West 45th Street
 New York 36, N. Y.

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SKIN DIVER—JUNE—7



A weight belt is NOT a WAIT belt

By TOMMY AMERMAN

One of the things that horrifies me in this business of skin diving is the fact that many people who are fascinated by the ocean have absolutely no comprehension of its dangers.

I have seen—and so has everyone who has been diving for any length of time—divers take a war surplus ammunition belt, load the pockets with lead, buckle the belt on—and then head on down. I have known skin divers who have spent hours fashioning their own lead weights so that they fit the contours of their hips

—and then they use a harness buckle that takes two hands and two minutes to unbuckle. A friend of mine who is now a skilled diver told me about an idiotic rig he used when he first got started in 1936—he built himself a diving helmet from a 5-gallon gasoline can, strapped it to his shoulders—and bolted 10-pound suicide weights to a pair of old shoes!

In each of these cases there is a complete disregard of this fact: When you get into trouble underwater, you usually have to get out of it *fast*.

That means, in some cases, being able to drop your weight belt.

That's why any intelligent diver won't take a chance with a belt that makes him wait—there just isn't any waiting time underwater.

I got into the weight belt manufacturing business because there wasn't any belt on the market that would meet my requirements. Some belts used a loop arrangement that was essentially a quick-release idea, but the weights either crimped so that they couldn't be moved on the belt, or they were so loose that they would slide around on the belt. Even worse, sometimes when a man in the water passed the belt to someone in a boat, the belt would end up in the boat and the weights would slide off and head for the bottom of the lagoon.

I invented a weight with a lock device that could be bolted to belt, and showed it to a skin diving friend who was a patent attorney, and I was on my way. I made a few belts, using two-pound hard babbitt and lead in molds that I had made, bought a large supply of war surplus quick-release aircraft safety buckles—and before I knew it, I was in business. I soon found that I was spending all of my spare time working on weight belts, filling orders as the word got around. My skin diving and my skin diving shop suffered. So I built a gang mold, hired some people, and I got back in the water myself.

Up here in the Northwest, where we wear rubber suits, weight belts are an absolute necessity. In warmer waters, some kind of weight is necessary for lung diving. Many free divers like to carry some kind of weight, too—which means that being able to move weights on a belt is invaluable. One free diver I know carries eight pounds—a practice I don't recommend. "Getting down is where I need help," he says, "I can always get back up. I *have* to."

Frankly, the way I look at weight belts is this. Find out how much weight you need for all the different kinds of diving that you do. If you wear a rubber suit, you'll find that the weight you need to suspend yourself in the water will vary, depending on which sweater and longies you wear. If you are diving with a lung, you'll have to adjust your weights. Try out the different combinations in a pool. Make all of your tests under controlled conditions. Make an allowance for the increased floating properties of ocean water—but *know* what weight you need.

There's nothing funnier than a brand new diver in wool knit underwear, a ski sweater, a rubber suit, and a lung—and no weight belt—trying to get their backs wet.

And there's nothing at all funny about the divers who couldn't get back to the surface because they couldn't *release* their weight belts.

Introducing
to this country
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REGULATOR

Made and tested by the German firm of
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RADICAL SINGLE-TUBE CONSTRUCTION: cuts by 50% the chance of snagging a tube—the greatest single danger in lung diving. Draeger spent months of intensive research to destroy once and for all the myth that inhaling a few cubic inches of your exhaled air can constitute a danger—*whatever your depth*. Right this minute you are rebreathing the exhaled air left in your windpipe. And, by the way, the assertion that the single tube is uncomfortable, pulling at your mouth, is pure nonsense: it simply isn't so.

EFFORTLESS BREATHING: scientifically controlled tests have shown that the Barakuda delivers the air with less effort than any other similar device. And you can drain your tank to the last cubic foot.

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FITS ANY BOTTLE. You can buy the Barakuda Regulator with a yoke to fit the K-valve used by Aqua-Lung or Div-Air, or with the standard oxygen fitting used by DESCO.

OUR UNIQUE MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE:

We know how hard it is to judge the quality of a product until you have actually seen it and used it. We are so confident that the Barakuda Regulator will satisfy you that we can offer this unconditional guarantee: If you can honestly say, within thirty days of your purchase, that the Barakuda Regulator does not fulfill all your expectations of hardness, comfort, and complete trustworthiness, your full purchase price will be refunded without question. The Florida Frogman, Kendall, Fla., with his national reputation for guaranteed satisfaction, stands behind this guarantee.

Barakuda Regulator alone (specify yoke
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If you order the Regulator alone, price includes postage. If you order with tank, add \$8 to the price; your refund, if any, will be returned to you with your order.

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THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY THAT YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE



Photo by Renee Denis—Courtesy New Vistas Productions

An Underwater TV Serial . . .

Captain Fathom

By GUSTAV DALLA VALLE

Today, in a small projection room in Hollywood, I have seen the result of six months work, twenty-six minutes of light and shadows on a screen. Captain Fathom is the hero of a new series of television films, and I have seen the first of his exciting adventures, the first film of thirty-nine, called "The Bomb." Skin diving and underwater adventure has been the theme of several movies and many stories, but though the television audience has been enthusiastic about underwater films, there has been very little shown on this medium. In the near future, Captain Fathom will be a well-known adventurer and television star.

In the mysterious and colorful underwater world, everything that human fantasy can devise is feasible and possible. During the last years Oceanography, which has been a hobby of the rich, has become an exact science.

Facts intermixed with fantasy, and adventures based on scientific research are the theme of our stories of Captain Fathom, the scientist-skipper of a large underwater craft.

Captain Fathom travels in an atomic submarine, the Explorer. This vessel can stay submerged for months since its power supply is practically limitless, and

since it can replenish its water and food at will.

Captain Fathom is the nickname of an intrepid man. He is known to the American Navy Intelligence, and sometimes executes secret and dangerous tasks for this country. Besides working for the government in an unofficial capacity, he also carries out his scientific research. He is assisted by his friend, a brilliant nuclear physicist, who designed and built the atomic engines for the Explorer. His name is Dr. Barclay.

The crew is carefully selected. All the men are experienced swimmers and divers, versed in using compressed-air lungs. There is also a young girl on board, Dr. Barclay's daughter Carol, who is the underwater photographer for the organization.

Captain Fathom is a man of great wealth. His age is close to forty. He is powerfully built, and has been a champion swimmer and Olympic contestant. His family is well known all over the world, they possess factories, mines, and oil wells, and play an important part

in the industrial history of America. "Fathom" uses his fortune to advance science. Since the use of atomic power was turned over to private enterprises, Fathom has taken advantage of it, and built himself the Explorer, the most powerful atomic submarine in the world.

Fathom is an Oceanographer by passion and profession. The lure of the sea which he acquired during the years of service in the Navy as the captain of a submarine, never left him. Probing into the mysteries of the oceans has become an obsession with him, and the submarine "Explorer" has become his home. Fathom is unmarried. Absorbed in scientific research, all his interest in life is wrapped up in his work: to search the waters and extract their secrets.

Dr. Barclay, the scientist, is about fifty, a jovial man with a twinkle in his eyes. He is an expert in electronics. An "Expert" is a man who knows all the mistakes that can be made within a limited field. Barclay constantly improves his field of knowledge. He met Captain Fathom when he worked as a consultant engineer and accepted Fathom's invitation to build the Explorer for him. Dr. Barclay is Fathom's close and only friend. Detached from government supervision, Barclay is now

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BETWEEN T

Rear Admir

Barbara W

Fathom). P

Photo cour



the head of the engineers on board the Explorer.

The television series tells the adventures of Captain Fathom and his gallant crew, and the exploits of their scientific research. The Explorer can move with tremendous speed, it can fire atomic missiles, and can dive to the bottom of the ocean floor to a depth that has never been reached by humans. Its powerful searchlight can light up the water.

When the crew ventures outside the vessel into the deep waters they are able to talk to each other with the help of a barium titanium transducer, a crystal, fastened to the headgear of the compressed-air lung. This crystal transfers the sound of their voices like a telephone.

The Explorer's deadly enemy is the Shark, another atomic sub, that prowls the waters and tries to ambush the Explorer. Its skipper is "Shark Brannigan," a brilliant but cruel man. His ship, showing the features of a shark on its bow, has been built in another country.

Fathom and Shark Brannigan compete with each other for the fabulous treasures which the sea has swallowed during centuries.

There are submarine duels with atomic weapons, and fights with knives and underwater guns between the crews. Fathom's men wear jet bottles on their backs for bursts of speed in an emergency. There are encounters with octopi, menacing sharks, giant clams, and a sea monster grapples with the Explorer, which is saved only by discharging radioactive steam into the water from the sub's atomic engines. There are sunken cities under the sea, strange people who are equipped with gills like fish, others that live in caves supplied by wells of air that exude from the ocean's bottom. They are

UNDERWATER DIRECTOR Gustav Dalla Valle shows technique used for filming the submarine model, the "Explorer". Courtesy New Vistas Productions. — Photo by Renee Denis.



blind creatures since light never enters their world. There are jungles of kelp that entangle ships and men and keep them prisoner forever; there is the deadly ice that freezes the sub and practically crushes it.

The first story of the television series is the adventure of "The Bomb." While cruising in Northern Asiatic waters, the Explorer's instruments pick up radioactive waves. Fathom discovers a huge bomb stored underwater. After having gotten in touch with the Intelligence Department of the Navy, who are unable to send a task force into the enemy waters, Fathom decided to get rid of the menacing weapon himself. He attaches a limpet, a small time-bomb, to the gigantic bomb. While he is away from the Explorer, another submarine attacks his ship. Fathom and his assistant, with Dr. Barclay and his daughter, who went with him to study and photograph the bomb, try to swim out of the danger area. Barclay and Carol soon use up all the compressed air in their lungs, and the supply of the other two, being used for four, would soon be finished also, when the Explorer comes back. At that moment the bomb explodes, but they are able to get into the submarine before the gigantic destructive wave reaches them. The shock almost wrecks the submarine but it reaches safety in the nick of time.

The idea of the Captain Fathom series was developed by Curt Siodmak, for many years noted as a writer (Donovan's Brain), director and producer with film credits known throughout the industry both in the United States and Europe, and Rear Admiral Thomas Dykers, whose background of fifteen years submarine experience included commanding the USS Jack during World War II. He was collaborator and technical advisor for top films, including "Caine Mutiny" and "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea."

I am supervisor of all underwater filming, and Philip Nash, who has worked with me in all my underwater enterprises during the last five years, is underwater photographer.

The Captain Fathom series is the first project of New Vistas Production, a new movie company which will specialize in underwater productions. Mr. Richard M. Kline, president of Healthways, is executive producer of New Vistas. The Healthways underwater equipment, including the Divair and Cressi line, will be used exclusively.

The underwater filming, which makes up about two-thirds of the first story, "the Bomb," was shot at Weeki Wachee Spring in Florida and in Haiti. The biggest problem of the production was the bomb itself, which was actually half a bomb, and which, after being dragged down to the thirty-five foot depth of the underwater location, developed a calamitous case of blisters due to the wrong kind of paint. Consequently, before each shooting, it was necessary for Ed Fisher and I to compress the blisters so that the structure would resemble an incendiary nuclear bomb instead of a diseased hippopotamus.

The limpet which set off the bomb was quite a problem too. It was supposed to clamp magnetically and immovably onto the bomb. But, because the limpet was actually made of wood, when Captain Fathom released it against the bomb, the limpet slipped from his hands and floated away down the river.

During all the time of the shooting, I tried to get the cooperation of the fish in the spring, to make the underwater scene more realistic, but they would not come near us. The one time that the fish were attracted into the scene was when we were filming the submarine. Then the little fish ruined the effect by making it obvious that the submarine was only a three foot model. >

BETWEEN THE SCENES—CAPT. FATHOM—Left to right: Rear Admiral Dykers, Richard Kline, Gustav Dalla Valle, Barbara Wilson (Carol) and Don Megowan (Capt. Fathom). Film Editor Maurice Kline not pictured.—Photo courtesy New Vistas Production by Renee Denis.



SKIN DIVING

By ANDREAS RECHNITZER
Scripps Institution of Oceanography

The competent skin diver of today, along with the novice, is probably unaware of the remarkable divers of the late nineteenth century, who without the aid of swim fins and fancy face plates, established some records that are quite incredible, indeed. Although some of the feats recorded in the past are plausible, others seem to entail some exaggeration. The statements are repeated herein as they appear in the literature and a critical evaluation of their validity is relinquished to the reader.

Rocky coastal shorelines are the most active sites of skin diving and these areas have for centuries offered a large and varied supply of food to both man and beast. In order to take full advantage of this source many species of animals have become adapted to a form of aquatic life which allows dives to considerable depths, often for prolonged periods. Exploitation of subsurface resources has become an engaging sport, enjoyed by perhaps as many as 500,000 individuals in California alone. Before the ocean floor acquired the sporting attitude that it holds today, the earlier enthusiasts were almost entirely limited to professional sponge, pearl, and fortune salvage divers, whose total number was only a small fraction of the people that are vitally engaged in skin diving today.

As man's adaptations for an aquatic existence are limited it is interesting to compare ourselves with those aquatic animals which are able to hold their breath during submergence, particularly in relation to the deep dives undertaken by naked divers.

Sponge divers can remain below the surface for about 2 minutes and various land mammals can hold their breath for approximately 1 minute. Diving animals are able to submerge for about 10 times as long. Fortunately for diving mammals inherent mechanisms are present which automatically allow for an increased oxygen holding capacity of the blood, combined with decrease in heart rate, a shunting of the blood to the vital nerve

centers, and other important physiological aids. One of the most striking adaptations among birds is that even out of water a duck will hold its breath when the head and neck are extended. Excitation of certain sense organs in the neck apparently initiates the apnea mechanism. Such involuntary responses make diving simple for such animals.

Although not as adept at diving as some other mammals, man is not denied the privilege of being able to submerge to considerable depths. Ingenuity and inquisitiveness have taken him deep into the subaqueous environment. Man has tried for centuries to penetrate the depths of the sea, and the limitations of diving without equipment have stimulated him to create more and more elaborate methods of supplying respirable air under water.

However, much useful underwater activity has been carried out by naked divers without any accessory breathing equipment whatever, and these individuals have developed remarkable capacities for remaining below the surface. An English professional swimmer, Finney, has been recorded as remaining below the surface in a tank of warm water for 4 minutes 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ seconds in 1886. During the time of submergence, the diver did no work whatever; endurance being the sole objective. In 1893, Beaumont, an Australian stayed under water for 4 minutes 25 seconds. An American, Enoch, was reported as having remained under water continuously for 4 minutes 46 $\frac{1}{4}$ seconds. These tests were performed to determine the maximum time that a man could remain submerged without exerting any physical activity.

Naked sponge divers operating without apparatus do not usually remain below the surface for more than 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ minutes at a time, nor do they customarily dive to depths greater than 80 to 100 feet. Cases of bleeding from the nose, ears, and mouth are quite common and sometimes divers are brought up insensible. The most spectacular record, per-

haps, is that of Stotti Georghios, a Greek sponge diver, who purportedly, in 1913, stayed under on several occasions for 1 minute and 30 seconds to 3 minutes and 35 seconds at depths of 130 to 200 feet in recovering an anchor and chain belonging to the Italian battleship, *Regina Margherita*, which was lost at a depth of about 200 feet in the Bay of Pegodia.

1896 records indicate that it was then common practice for sponge divers to dive to depths of 135 to 165 feet and to remain on the bottom for 2 to 4 minutes at a time. These divers were reported as having made five or six such dives per day. Frequently, they had hemorrhages from the eyes, nose, and mouth after surfacing. French divers, using a simple diving dress suffered no fatalities, but naked divers were frequently paralyzed and died as a result of the dives.

Crude rules were deduced for such divers and it was declared that the descent should be as rapid as equilibration of the ears permits and that decompression should be slow and governed by the depth of the dive. The decompression rate recommended by divers with equipment was 1 minute per meter of depth. No account was apparently taken for the time a man had spent at the maximum depth.

Medical records of doctors treating the problems of sponge divers, 1881, of the Island of Hydra in Greece, over a period of 30 years, indicated that these phenomenal, but careless divers suffered many cases of pain, paraplegia, local anesthesia, disturbance of bladder function, etc. on decompression. Autopsies on fatal cases revealed hemorrhages in the spinal cord.

The medical problems of naked divers discussed in 1887, by Lacassagne, spoke of divers in India who were able to remain under water for 10 to 15 minutes. The author also stated that sponge and pearl divers in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean remained submerged for no longer than 10 minutes. (These large figures must have been estimates read from an hour glass!) He records, more plausibly, that a diver in artesian wells in Algeria, was able to hold his breath for no longer than 2 minutes 33 seconds. A certain "Miss Lurine" held her breath for 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes and James, a Hungarian, was quoted as having remained under for 4 minutes 40 seconds in England in 1885. This individual was also reported as having swum under water a distance of 450 feet in 4 minutes.

The average man can hold his breath voluntarily for about 45 seconds without any preliminary deep breathing. An examination of three hundred and eighteen American aviators showed a better average time, 68 seconds; whereas twenty-five professional divers accustomed to using conventional equipment were able to hold their breath, on the average, for 91 seconds. The normal procedure for this

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test was to expire deeply and then inhale. Under these conditions, the longest individual effort achieved was two minutes and forty-seven seconds. The men chosen for these trials were, when compared to the average individual, of exceptional physical condition and ability and, therefore, probably represent a good estimate for the maximum endurance limit of the human for voluntary apnea (breath holding).

It is common practice among experienced skin divers to prepare for their deeper dives by forced deep breathing. Such breathing often causes a slight amount of dizziness and discomfort, but the results are rewarding as deeper and longer dives can be attained. Preliminary deep breathing can extend the period of voluntary apnea up to five or six minutes, or even (in a single case) to the phenomenal time of 9 minutes. A group of

games, they conspicuously excelled their opponents. These experimental trials show the beneficial qualities of an increased store of oxygen. The depletion of the original amount of carbon dioxide combined with an increase in oxygen allows for a prolonged period of holding the breath.

The pangs that we feel when holding the breath are the call for "help" by the nervous system for a particular deficiency in the requirements of the body for an essential operation. It is not the lack of oxygen that drives us to inhale, but the gradual accumulation of carbon dioxide which induces the disagreeable symptoms. A sudden acute deficiency of oxygen causes faintness without preliminary warning sensations if carbon dioxide does not have time to accumulate. The interplay of these two gases is essential to our well being, regardless which one operates our involuntary respiratory responses. The concentration of carbon dioxide which may develop during voluntary apnea is unpleasant but not dangerous. Oxygen deficiency on the other hand may proceed to the dangerous state before the victim is scarcely aware of the critical situation. After only a few minutes of involuntary asphyxia, the results may be fatal. Cases involving drowning or near drowning fix the critical time limit around 4 minutes submergence.

Breath holding proficiency has not, unfortunately, been improved by the practice of diving for many generations. The man of today is unable to endure submergence and work for more than two or three minutes even though he may diligently practice prolonged voluntary apnea. The maximum of submergence or breath holding after forced breathing by an experienced diver can be duplicated by almost any well trained athlete.

One of the most interesting aspects of diving without apparatus is provided by the Japanese female divers, the so-called "Amas." These women wear no equipment except goggles for the eyes and a weight to help them submerge. The husband assists from the boat, but does not dive himself. The profession of women divers in Japan has arisen from an idea long prevalent in that country that the cold water was harmful to the gonads in the male and produced sterility. This is in direct contrast to the ideology of a contemporary expert on the effect of temperature on germ cells.

Some of these women divers were reported, in 1922, as having descended to depths of 135 feet and in a case recorded, a depth of 90 feet was attained. The "Ama" remained below the surface for about 2½ minutes and carried out as many as 20 dives an hour and about 60 to 90 dives a day. Between each 2 hours work period the gentleman overseer allowed a pause for rest of about 1½

hours. One "hour" of work is referred to as a Kakura and the duration of a Kakura, however, varies with the temperature of the water between 30 and 70 minutes (probably depended too on who was reading the thermometer.) These divers do not suffer from caisson disease or the bends since the time of compression is so short.

Many classical illusions to diving may be found recorded in the literature. In particular, naked divers were supposedly used by Xerxes and by many others to recover sunken treasure or in battle to destroy harbor defenses or to cut ship's mooring lines. This early fanciful type of writing has come to be a reality today. U. S. Navy "frogmen" are utilizing such strategy, augmented by a self-contained respiratory apparatus.

Plutarch records an extraordinary story of a fishing contest by Anthony and Cleopatra, in which Anthony hired divers to put fish on his own line. It appears, however, that clever Cleo discovered this fraud and hired a rival diver to put a salted fish on his line, doubtless to his great consternation and embarrassment.

Simple diving appliances were suggested from the very early times; Pliny 77 A.D. refers to divers employed in warfare who drew in air through a tube, one end of which was held in the mouth and the other end was supposed to have floated on the surface. Pliny compared this practice to that of the elephant who breathes through his trunk while remaining submerged. As is well known, however, such a device will work only in a few feet of water, since a differential pressure between the outside of the body and the inside of the lungs created by any greater depth would render breathing impossible and may even lead to hemorrhage in the respiratory system. Elongated "snorkel tubes" on face plates are, therefore, useless below six feet.

Skin diving has enjoyed a long history. Its greatest advancements have occurred in the last 30 years, due to the great multitude of individuals who have learned to swim for recreational purposes, and in part to diving devices which have facilitated the sport by making certain aspects more enjoyable. Important in the history are the outstanding physical achievements, which were established long before this recent upsurge. They will probably stand for some time to come, as we are more conscious of our physical status and exercise care against unduly endangering ourselves, particularly in making deep dives. Our predecessors, however, undoubtedly felt it a necessity to dive to great depths without adequate protection, in order to obtain a livelihood. The enthusiasm of some zealous individual today may, however, soon shatter the records which are quoted here. ☛



TODAY'S MODERN SKIN DIVER averages 45 seconds per working dive. Above is Paul Moss, west coast champion diver—Staff Photo.

college students using this technique boosted their average from 68 seconds without preparation to 4 minutes and 20 seconds after a forced breathing period of 2 minutes.

The achievements of man to hold his breath become even more fabulous when oxygen is inhaled after forced breathing. The ability of man to hold his breath voluntarily after this procedure is at times doubled. One individual held his breath for 15 minutes after forced breathing and inhalation of oxygen. It is fortunate that this record is authentic, as it renders all of the above quotations feasible. The Japanese were sly enough to take advantage of the extra endurance offered by inhalation of oxygen. Through this means, at the Los Angeles Olympic



A new type of record . . .

GIRL ESTABLISHES UNDERWATER RECORD

Miss Ginger Stanley was born in Walhalla, South Carolina and began swimming at the age of three. Moved to Florida in 1947 where she began to take swimming seriously. Miss Stanley is not only an excellent swimmer but a photographers model as well. She has appeared on the covers of eight magazines and recently Pageant Magazine had a photo-feature story on her, featuring her many talents.

Lovely Ginger Stanley, 23-year-old model of Florida's Silver Springs, Friday, April 15th, established a world's underwater distance record by going 7 miles underwater in a self-contained diving unit down Silver River at Florida's Silver Springs. On hand were newsreel cameramen, writers and photographers.

Miss Stanley was outfitted for this grueling swim wearing a rubber exposure suit, face mask, swim fins and aqua lung. She left the docks at Silver Springs and came up at the Ocklawaha River Bridge 7 miles away.

Underwater changes of aqua-lungs took place four times and not anytime during the long underwater swim did Miss Stanley break surface. Changes of Aqua-lungs were made with the assistance of two young men who brought her fresh tanks and who saw that Ginger was safe and guided her all the way.

Tired but extremely happy—Ginger stated that she thought she could do even better next time!

Photos courtesy of Silver Springs, Florida



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THE STAFF DIVERS at Marineland, Florida, have the ticklish job of "walking" newly-captured sharks. By moving them through the water, divers revived them more quickly as the oxygen-bearing water flows over their gills.—Photo courtesy Marine Studios, Marineland, Florida.

Book Review . . .

By R. K. AWTRY

UNDERWATER SAFETY MANUAL

Los Angeles County Department of Parks and
Recreation

This excellent manual, prepared by Bev. B. Morgan, is a book of fundamentals which every diving club should have. As an initial source of information and a later reference the manual is of value whether you are a novice or a pro and whether you dive in California, Florida, or Minnesota.

The manual is divided into two parts. The first, entitled "Skin Diving," has sections dealing with the introduction of the novice to the sport, skin diving equipment, shore and water safety, and personal safety. The section concerning the novice quite correctly insists that one be

a proficient swimmer and physically fit before taking up skin diving. The equipment section is very complete in its discussion of masks, fins, guns, suits, and other items of diving equipment except underwater breathing devices. While it does not make any definite recommendations on the best type of gun or suit, for example (as it shouldn't), it does wisely suggest that the novice get the opinions of experienced divers before purchasing any equipment. The shore, water, and personal safety sections are words to the wise and while an old diver may find some of the suggestions over-obvious, a rule book on any subject should contain the obvious basic items as well as the finer points. Some things seem more obvious than they are once we learn them. For example, in the paragraph on entering the water from a rocky shore is the advice to trail your float behind you when the surf breaks as you are entering the water. I can remember being tumbled off my feet many a time because, before

I got the word, I tried to push my inner tube ahead of me over a breaking wave. The shore and water safety section also has, under "sea life," some pertinent information on the treatment of jellyfish stings and stingray wounds, which I am sure is not generally known by divers.

Part two of the manual is all about the Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus and from it one can get a complete check out in the SCUBA, the check out including highly pertinent information on the physics of gases, diving physiology, and the use of either the demand or rebreather types of equipment. However, the manual is rightfully firm about insisting that the novice never attempt to practice the use of the SCUBA in the water without experienced supervision. This part of the manual is very complete and a lot of research has gone into it, as attested by the many footnotes crediting the source of various facts. The Navy Standard Decompression Table is given on the last two pages.



PORTABLE DECOMPRESSION tank used in simulated dive . . . pressure gage, intercomm, switches and batteries are contained in box on top . . . four lead-in valves for various regulator hook-ups and three lead-in valves for different gas mixtures also part holes for observation.—Photos courtesy of Rory Page.

Account of Simulated Record Deep Dive

By RORY PAGE

On Sunday, April 17, 1955, diving history was made in the form of a successful simulated, scientific, deep diving attempt, to a record depth of 410 feet. The simulated deep dive was engineered and carried out in the person of Mr. Parry Bivens, head of the Scientific Underwater Research Group.

Bivens in his successful attempt, proved many things, the most important being that it is possible for free divers to descend to great depths with no ill affects. The depth which these experiments were and are still being carried out, have in the most part been considered almost and heretofore impossible for free divers to reach.

Bivens simulated his 410 foot dive, using a decompression tank of his own design. On close examination, the new decompression tank is more than adequately equipped, having itself been tested at over a simulated depth of 1000 feet.

Information concerning this particular dive, on interviewing Bivens, proved quite interesting. Parry says he used

three 58 cubic foot tanks containing a helium-Oxygen mixture. The exact mixtures, he informs me, are classified information. The total diving time, including decompression, was two hours and 29 minutes, to a maximum pressure of 182 pounds per square inch. It took less than five minutes to reach bottom while he spent two and one-half minutes collecting data, the remainder of this time being spent in different stages of decompression.

Assisting Bivens with control workings and recording data were: Zale Parry, woman's world record holder for free divers; her record depth, 209 feet, using compressed air also; Frank Bivens, Parry's father and business associate, and Curt Bernard, recorder. Observing, was Dr. Roman of Santa Monica, an anesthetist, Commander Douglas Fane, commanding officer of U.D.U. One and a medical officer, Lt. Lanphier, to name a few.

Bivens took gas samples on the bottom and at various stages of decompression, by using medical syringes as a method of obtaining gas. He states no ill affects

were encountered, however, a sense of depth realization was present. Considering the fact that one small mistake could have meant a fatal and painful end, this realization can easily be understood.

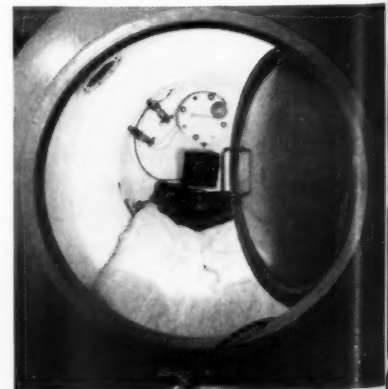
Bivens says this dive is only one in a series that have been taking place for some weeks, gradually increasing in depth, and using different mixtures of breathable gases. He further states these dives and the data gained are in contrast to the hasty, unscientifically controlled deep dives which have been conducted in the past by other groups and advises against amateurs and even professionals attempting deep dives with inadequate diving equipment.

Bivens plans to duplicate his series of dives in ocean waters this summer, and tells us the equipment alone, without the personnel, runs into several thousand dollars. What with boats, decompression tank, diving bottles and regulators in large quantity, medical assistance, and the mechanics to properly mix the breathing gas supplied, add this to the many hours of diving team workouts and preparing diving team schedules, we can see where it becomes expensive.

According to Bivens if such experimental work isn't properly conducted with this type of preparation and available equipment, the men doing it are flirting with sure disaster.

A point of considerable importance is that Bivens has made a satisfactory compression chamber which would be of great use in the treatment of "bends." Some of the commercial divers and others who are diving to depths and times calling for decompression should have such a rig and trained first aid personnel available.

We wish to go along in spades with that last bit. We know divers will keep going deep, we can only add that it had best be done by people who are expert enough and who can finance the proper equipment to assure them at least a favorable chance.



INSIDE VIEW showing door opening, intake and exhaust valves in upper left. Back side shows food chute, intercomm and depth gage. This tank has been tested to pressures in excess of 500-lbs.

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RENE CAVALERO

Translated from a French Magazine

The following account concerns a real champion of undersea hunting, who also has the merit of being one of the pioneers of this sport in France despite his relatively young age. He is the swimming champion Rene Cavalero, who even today, whenever he has the time, continues to engage in daring encounters with marine game in those mysterious depths between 5 and 15 meters. "I cannot resist the call of the sea," says the champion. "This passion is stronger than I am. Often I take my boat at the old port of Marseille and go fishing by the coast of Frioul or off Plainer. Other times I go to some secret cove. For twenty years I have had this passion, and I feel that it is not going to leave me for some time to come."

Circumstances of life caused the future champion, in his early years, to familiarize himself with the various species of fish. Born in Marseille, November 20, 1917, he went with his parents to South America when he was very young. They lived for a time on a small island, lost in the Atlantic, the island of Fernando de Noronha. Fernando is a tropical island near the shores of Brazil. It has some beautiful beaches bordered with palms and coconut trees and in its tepid, clear waters swim the most beautiful fish in

UNDERWATER PIONEER
Rene Cavalero beaches
a large 27 kilo merou
near Marseille.



the world. But often the sea is rough and strong waves roll to shore. Neither the sharp rocks nor the rough surf kept the young Rene from going swimming with the other youngsters of the island. It was here that Cavalero came to know the sea and acquire his perfect knowledge of the ocean's currents. By the time he was eight years old the ocean had become his element. It was at Fernando de Noronha that he came to know the various types of fish—sentinel fish, requins (shark), barracuda, merou, murenes, giant squid, etc. The local fishermen brought some of these to land and he became familiar with all the species of marine fauna.

The sport of undersea hunting was born in the Mediterranean around 1935 in Marseille, a Canaque (Polynesian) named Canaldo was the champion undersea hunter with the javelin along the shores of the Riviera. He had begun training the best swimmers of the day for this new form of sport. With his wood lined goggles pressed against his eyes and long javelin in his hand, this marvelous diver could capture 2 or 3 fish in one plunge. He could remain under water 2 minutes and when he emerged he always had 1 or 2 fish between his teeth and another at the end of his weapon. When Rene was introduced to Canaldo and examined his goggles, he immediately planned to build a pair for himself. He noted that these goggles had been made of bamboo with a transparent glass plate. Rene was a born craftsman, so he didn't have much difficulty in building a pair for himself. The first time he put them on and took a plunge in the sea he was amazed at the underwater scene.

He found he could compare many of the sights underwater with others on land and it provided him with many surprises and fantastic astonishments. He discovered the splendid flora of the underwater terrain as he explored this new world, stupendous in its majestic silence, where, as one gazes about him, it is as though he were dreaming. Rene began to notice fish which he had never seen before except through a sort of mist. Now he saw them in their true forms and colors. It was an enchantment and many are the times he has expressed admiration for his friend Canaldo who had made it possible for him to see these fairy surroundings.

He had his difficulties, however, because he still did his fishing with a javelin in the manner in which he had been taught by Canaldo. It is indeed a difficult feat to spear a fish with a single extension of the arm. One must be a polynesian to have that much precision. In spite of it, after two months of trials, Rene caught his first fish, a beautiful "sea wolf" which was swimming about Point Petit Nice. Little at a time the ingenious swimming champion began to perfect his equipment. He built some swimming masks with bicolular vision and he also replaced his javelin, which could only be projected by an extension of the arm, with a sort of arrow propelled by elastic cords. He soon invented his first gun, 2 meters long which would project a wooden arrow. The arrow was propelled by drawing it with the elastic cord. He finally ended by replacing the wooden arrow with one made of steel. By



ARMES SOUS-MARINE "CHAMPION"—Equipment flows from this factory to the world's underwater markets.

(Continued on Page 32)

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18—JUNE—SKIN DIVER

Divers' Bulletin Board

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LEARN TO DIVE for pleasure and profit. Lung—Shallow water. Commercial deep Sea Diving. Write for free information: **Coastal School of Diving**, 1345 — 100 Ave., Oakland, California.

FOR LEASE. FLORIDA SKIN DIVERS HDQS., INC. and the **SEAHORSE MOTEL** recently featured in the Saturday Evening Post. New and Modern 6-unit motel with manager's quarters, plus the finest diving shop on the Florida Keys. Located in the center of Marathon on U.S. Highway 1. The finest opportunity in the fastest growing business in one of the fastest growing areas in the country. Address **Bartlett Bros.**, Box 227, Marathon, Florida.

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(An excerpt letter by 'Vane' and was Jonklaas and Rodney a one d quite im spot but very shy the Seven they fish they pro were est hotel wh The hote old Dutu derful st evening on the of almost fi this won they wer burst an ing rain. The fe was again thunderin for fishin quiet litt visited. E they ma south. Th pany of I a Vienne the rubbe Vista. Th after an a low coral cided tha risks inv look for a the south the most tions wer more tha acity of p pano. a r ditions. Rodney reconna grounds Galle. Iva

IVANOVIC'S VISIT

(An excerpt from the Ceylon Reefcombers "Newsletter," by the Hon. Secretary Rupert Giles.)

Ivan Ivanovic arrived on the Fourth and was met at the Airport by Rodney Jonklaas. He was raring to go and he and Rodney departed the next day for a one day trip to Hikkaduwa. Ivan was quite impressed with our favorite fishing spot but, needless to say, the fish were very shy. He set off with Rupert Giles on the Seventh in pouring rain and together they fished Dodanduwa from whence they proceeded to Galle. Headquarters were established in the New Oriental hotel which was once a Dutch Barracks. The hotel is situated in the heart of the old Dutch Fort which is still in a wonderful state of preservation. The same evening they took a look at Buona Vista on the other side of Galle. Visibility was almost fifty feet, and in such conditions this wonderful spot is tops, but even while they were in the water a terrific storm burst and they hurried ashore in teeming rain.

The following morning Buona Vista was again visited, but with a terrific surf thundering over the rocks it was no place for fishing, and so as a compromise the quiet little bay of Watering Point was visited. Rodney arrived that evening and they made plans for their trip further south. The following morning, in the company of D. G. Degenhart and Dr. Szenes, a Viennese Specialist, they set off with the rubber dinghy once more for Buona Vista. The surf had died down a bit, but after an abortive attempt to cross a shallow coral reef in the dinghy, it was decided that conditions did not justify the risks involved and the party set off to look for a spot further south. Mirissa, at the southern tip of Weligama Bay looked the most promising, but here too conditions were very poor, visibility being not more than fifteen feet. With great tenacity of purpose, Rodney secured a Pompano, a remarkable feat under such conditions.

Rodney proceeded to Matara for a reconnaissance of possible fishing grounds while the others returned to Galle. Ivan and Giles joined him later in

the afternoon and they went immediately to Dondra Lighthouse where the water was relatively clear, but very rough. At a point three hundred yards out and parallel to the lighthouse the swimmers encountered a fierce current which swept them shorewards further down the coast. Ivan and Giles were cast ashore in bad surf, but fortunately there was no coral or sea urchins. Rupert Giles dropped his gun while endeavoring to hang on to mask and fins and it was soon lost in the boiling cauldron. Ivan kindly went back in and found it for him. Meanwhile, Rodney managed to get ashore further down, but not before he had secured a number of Caranx.

The following morning the trio, now joined by Langston Pereira, again tried their luck at Dondra. Rupert Giles was determined not to take another "Trip round the lighthouse," but after having said goodbye to Ivan and Rodney at the point where he thought the current commenced he soon found himself swimming backwards and so quickly rejoined the others. Ivan soon left them and got ashore safely, but Rodney and Rupert decided to drift with the current until it weakened. They got ashore without any trouble in a quiet little bay half a mile further down. The population of Dondra were noisy and rough, but the presence of a policeman kept them in order. That evening, again at Dondra, Rodney lined up a hundred pound Caranx with his gun, but it vanished like lightning as Langston fired at a Rudder Fish nearby. Ivan saw a Grouper in the region of 150 lbs., but it too vanished. Ivan also fired at a large Caranx only to have his spear bounce off the gill plates. Langston hit a very large Grouper in the stomach, but it tore off. Everyone was in high spirits because we had at last hit the big fish and it was decided to return to the same spot the following evening.

The next day we hit Dickwella and Rodney soon had a 75 lb. Caranx on his spear. Ivan went to the assistance and held the cable so as to enable Rodney to get to the surface. Unfortunately, he fired his gun accidentally in his excitement

and the fish tore off before it could be reshot. A short while later Rupert Giles secured the only Pompano he took on the entire trip. Everyone had reasonable luck, but it was decided to look for new ground while the day was still young. Ivan got a huge Surgeon fish in the shallows just before he came ashore. The policeman with us recommended a small bay about two miles further east and off we set.

We decided to split into pairs and work the rocky coast on either side of the bay working back into the bay itself. Rodney went with Ivan to the west side while Langston and Rupert walked over a promontory on the east side and jumped into the sea about half a mile from the mouth of the bay. Visibility was about twenty-five feet and it appeared to be an excellent fishing ground with a bottom entirely of rock ledges filled with crevices and caves. However, by this time it was past 11 o'clock, and a little late for good fishing. Langston and Rupert had no luck with their fishing, but there was no lack of excitement for they were approached by a heavy white finned shark about seven or eight feet in length who didn't seem a bit shy. The usual demonstration dives at him didn't seem to worry him unduly and he kept coming back. Langston pursued him and fired at him to help him on his way, but to their consternation he came back again. This time Rupert had a go at him and succeeded in just tipping him with his arrow. Immediately afterwards another large shark of a different variety passed close to Langston who fired again. By this time they were approaching the mouth of the bay and a few fish were seen. Rupert saw a white finned shark practically stationary and decided to have a shot at it, but when he went into his dive he saw not one, but three without even turning his head. Surfacing rapidly, he yelled to Langston that the place was crawling with sharks and Langston dove to investigate. He came up with eyes popping and informed his companion that he had seen no fewer than six. By this time both swimmers were close to shore and they decided to risk shooting a few fish. After securing a Boralu apiece, the sharks began to gang up on them. This caused Langston to howl with laughter, but nevertheless discretion was the better part of valour and they quickly headed for the rocks.

Ivan and Rodney fared a little better with their fishing, but Rodney also had a shark scare when a large fellow passed him near the surface. During the post mortem on shore, it was decided to return the next day and clean up the sharks. This would give Ivan an opportunity to

(Continued on Page 36)

SKIN DIVER—JUNE—19

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'55 Champions to Europe Fund

Help send your 1955 National Underwater Spearfishing Champions to Europe to compete with Spain, Italy, France and Russia for the International Title on August — 1955.

The Skin Diver Magazine has kindly consented to act as trustee for the fund and contributions should be sent direct to: "55 Champions to Europe Fund," c/o Skin Diver Magazine, P. O. Box 128, Lynwood, Calif.

With Underwater Spearfishing a National A.A.U. sport, Entry Fees at Championships events have automatically been lowered. A \$1.00 contribution from each individual or club member will ensure the best for our champions. The winning club may be yours.

The winning team will be flown to New York unless the National Champion Team is from the New York Association. The U. S. Divers will be outfitted there with American colors, garb and insignia. The A.A.U., through the Department of State will arrange their visas and they will emplane on a Pan American Clipper for a through flight to Barcelona, Spain.

Plans have been made for the American team to fly to the Spanish island of Mallorca where they will have five days to train in the waters where the meet will be held.

The major city of Palma on the island of Mallorca was a post war base for the American U.D.T. and Edward Gray of the Serpents Underwater Spearfishing Club, who spent two years there, reports the temperature very warm in August and the underwater conditions favorable for high team totals.

Because of the great amount of dynamiting that has been done along the shores of the Mediterranean, fish are relatively scarce in shallow water, thus forcing the underwater spearfishermen to hunt at great depths. It is not uncommon for first class divers to exceed one-hundred feet during the course of European Championships. However, the waters surrounding the island of Mallorca are still relatively unspoiled.

The unofficial Italian free dive without

a lung is now 145 ft., the official depth still remains at 127+ ft.

In spite of the fact that Italy has so many hundred foot divers, Mairata, Bonet and Pol of Spain captured the European Championships in Italys back yard at Sestri Levante. It is not generally known that Spain has had an Underwater Spearfishing Association since 1947, and so it was not without some surprise that the European nations saw Spain dominate the team competition. It was with Luis Puyo and Bonet of Spain that the International Underwater Spearfishing Association first communicated in the process to standardize the rules for Underwater Spearfishing World's Records. Yellowtail have been taken in Spain weighing 89 lbs.

This will be the first time an American Underwater Spearfishing Team has competed in Europe and we urge everyone who has an interest in the pastime of skin diving and the sport of underwater spearfishing to support this worthy effort to make our sport truly international. Make all contributions payable to "55 Champions to Europe Fund" and send to "Skin Diver Magazine," Box 128, Lynwood, Calif.

CHAMPIONS TO EUROPE COMMITTEE

Fred Beitz—A.A.U.
Gustave Dalla Valle—Pescasport Magazine

Jim Auxier—The Skin Diver Magazine
Charles Blakeslee—The Skin Diver Magazine.

Dr. Paul DeBach—University of California

Ralph Davis—Chairman.

1955

CHAMPIONSHIPS CALENDAR

JUNE 18 & 19—S.P.A.A.U. Eliminations—Cabrillo Beach, Calif.

JUNE 26 — Pacific Coast Junior Championships, Laguna Beach, Calif.

JUNE 26—Central Calif. Championships. (Monterey area)

JULY 3—S.P.A.A.U. Finals

JULY 3—Florida State Tournament, Between Cedar Keys & St. Marks.

JULY 10—EAST COAST UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING CONTEST, Pt. Judith, Rhode Island.

JULY 10—Southwest Border Assoc. Championships, La Jolla.

JULY 17—Pacific Coast Championships.

JULY 31 — NATIONAL UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS, Catalina Island, Calif.

AUGUST 15 (Apx.) — INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS, Spain



SEND YOUR "55 CHAMPIONS TO EUROPE"—Your contributions to this fund will enable the 1955 National Champions, perhaps you and your team, to visit Majorca in the heart of the Mediterranean to compete with the cream of the European champions in August this year.—Map illustration by Walt Koeschner.

International Contest Diving Area Described

Palma the town and Mallorca the Island some 100 to 120 miles off the coast of Spain is described by Gustav Dalla Valle as one of the most beautiful places in the world; quite like Monterey and Carmel on the California coast; which would suggest a rocky and sandy undulating coastline with many small inlets, coves and pinnacle like formations. The water will be clear and the temperature around 75 degrees F. Under water the diver will find rocks and large caverns, with a short grass instead of the large weed common along the Pacific Coast of the North and South Americas. The types of fish will be very similar to those found in the tropical and semi-tropical areas of the world, such as: Black Sea Bass, Snook, Mullet, Croaker, Bonita, Black Drum, Gilthead, Sea Bream, Sargue, Tuna and fishes of the Grouper family. The diving depths will range from 20 to 90 feet depending on whether the diver is after the surface swimmers or the rock types. Two sections for the diving contest have been chosen and one will be selected at the last moment, each area is some 12 miles long. Much planning has gone into this Championship meet by the Confederation Internationale Peshe-Sportive and the Delegacion Nacional de Sport—Spanish government agency. The event has already received overwhelming publicity in Europe, hotel reservations are taken up in Palma and the committee has already received many valuable prizes.

UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Pacific Coast Championships have been arranged for July 17, 1955. All Regional Association finals are scheduled for July 3, 1955, in order to allow time for distant teams in the other Associations on the Pacific Coast and Atlantic Coasts to obtain sponsors to travel to their respective Championships.

According to the plan scheduled in the January issue of the *Skin Diver* magazine, each of the Associations on the Pacific and Atlantic Coasts are eligible to send one out of every four competing teams or less in their Associations to the Pacific and Atlantic Coast Underwater Spearfishing Championships on July 17th at Laguna Beach and in the New York area.

The winners of the South West Pacific Border Association Championships do not have to attend the Pacific Coast Underwater Spearfishing Championships in order to compete at the Nationals.

The Southern Pacific Association, A.A.U., that includes the Los Angeles area, is the only one of the 47 Associations that has so many clubs that it is necessary to hold eliminations before the July 3rd finals. The Southern Pacific Association finals are also scheduled for July 3rd in the Palos Verdes area near Los Angeles.

We should like to have notice of who your regional contestants will be at the Championships as soon as possible. Please send the results to Ralph N. Davis, 736 Micheltorena Street, Los Angeles 26, California, as well as copies to the various magazines for publicity for your Association Championships.

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SPEARFISHING ASSOCIATION

UNDER SANCTION OF THE A. A. U.

Plans are being made to hold the
U. S. National Underwater Spearfishing
Championships on the West Coast of the
United States on July 31, 1955. This ad-
vance in time has been made necessary
in order that the 1955 Champion team
may have time to make arrangements to
fly to European Championships at Mal-
lorca, Spain, in the middle of August.

According to the suggested schedule
published January 1, 1955, all regional
association finals were tentatively set for
July 3, 1955. In order to allow more
time for the Eastern teams to make ar-
rangements to come to California, plans
should be made by each eastern associa-
tion to hold their championships as early
as possible.

The U. S. National Championships will
get under way at 5:00 A.M. from San
Pedro Harbor near Los Angeles. The
three largest yachts will rendezvous at
the Catalina Isthmus approximately three
hours later at the west buoy of the central
reef just west of Bird Rock. At that time,
regional chairmen comprising the Na-
tional A. A. U. Underwater Spearfishing
Championships Committee who are pres-
ent, will decide the diving location so that
all of the teams will have an equal start
at the final location wherever it may be.

Safety is being handled by the Aqua-
Guards who will also act as Official
Judges by rowing each boat that contains
a three man team. A lung will be main-
tained by each Aqua-Guard as an addi-
tional safety factor.

Arrangements for fish disposal to a
charitable organization will be made by
the Dolphins Club; winners of the 1950
National Underwater Spearfishing Cham-
pionships, although the catch has been
so small in past years that there has only
been enough to supply the needs of the
divers and their friends.

The Nisei Kelptanglers will assist the
Dolphins in the preparations for the Na-
tional Championships.

When weighing is concluded the en-
tire convoy will proceed to Avalon where
the official presentation will be made.

It is believed that teams will compete
from the following associations and naval
base. Cuba, Florida, East Coast Assoc.,
New England, Michigan, Louisiana,

FLORIDA TO HAVE OPEN AND AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Florida Skin Divers Association
will sponsor a dual set of tournaments in
1955. One will be strictly amateur, the
other will be "open" competition. Each
of the four Florida regions will conduct
its own regional meet as an elimination
for the state tournament to be held July
3, 1955, between Cedar Keys and St.
Marks. This area was proposed by the
delegates from the Tallahassee club at the
last State meeting held in Ft. Pierce.

There was a great demand among the
members of the Florida Skin Divers
Association for competition other than
that governed by the A.A.U., therefore at
the last State meeting it was voted by
a great majority to hold the existing
A.A.U. eliminations, but also to hold
"Open" competition on the same day.
Both contests will be governed by the
same general basic rules.

The "Open" tournament will be run
and judged entirely separately from the
amateur contest even though both will be
held on the same date and place. This is
the first attempt in Florida to hold an
"Open" competition on a State wide
scale. The proponents of this type of com-
petition would like very much to have it
grow to be a yearly National event. All
clubs that are interested in forming a
National Open Competition committee
are requested to contact C. Andrews, 644
E. 45th Street, Hialeah, or Walter Loh-
mann, 1575 N.W. 128th Street, Miami,
Florida.

Southwest Pacific Border, Southern Pa-
cific, Central Calif., Pacific Northwest,
Texas and Oregon.

As is quite evident from the increas-
ing number of associations staging un-
derwater spearfishing championships, by
next year it will be necessary to hold the
East Coast and West Coast Underwater
Spearfishing Championships as a requi-
site for attendance at the National Cham-
pionships. By such means only three
teams from the East Coast and West
Coast Championships would be eligible
to attend the Nationals, thus ensuring ade-
quate sponsorship.

For additional information concern-
ing the U. S. National Underwater Spear-
fishing Championships and how you may
hold your own competitions for recogni-
tion of your champion team, contact—
Mr. Daniel J. Ferris, Secretary, AMATEUR
ATHLETIC UNION OF U. S., 233 Broad-
way, New York 7, N. Y.

—Ralph N. Davis
President, I.U.S.A.

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ROY CHEVAL AND COMPANION are pictured with two giant cod speared during the third New Caledonia Underwater Spearfishing Championships. Cheval's team the "Murray Eels" took first place with 323 points. Diving is considered tops in these tropical waters, with the catches running high for each team. Fish were given to the local charity organizations. Photo submitted by Jack Quillet to R. N. Davis, President of the I.U.S.A., from Carmen Studios.

S. P. A. A. U. ELIMINATIONS

Cabrillo Beach, California
Starting deadline, 11 a.m.

Clubs listed may compete only at their scheduled eliminations without exception. Registration fee \$2.00, fifty cents of which will be for A.A.U. registration. S.P.A.A.U. clubs not listed that wish to compete at these eliminations should telephone Ralph Davis at NOrmandy 5-6729 for their scheduling.

SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1955—Competing clubs will be: Anguilla Murenae, Aqua Knights, Aqua Familias, Bellflower Dolphins, Bosuns, Bug Scratchers, Bugs, Brentwood Hell Divers, Carpinteria Hell Divers, Coastal Squids, Coral Raiders, Cormorants, Cove Crawlers, Chickens of the Sea, Daveys Boys, Des Tortue de Mer, Dolphins, Ebbitiders.

Garibaldies of S.G.V., Hammerheads, Kelp Benders, Kelp Kings, Kelp Kombes, Kelp Lords, Kelptanglers, King Neptunes Knights, La Habra Skin Divers, Lockheed Skin Diving Club, Long Beach Douglas Tridents, Marlins, Muirmen, North Hollywood Tritons, P.V. Sea Horses, Paramount Sea Serpents, Peliegans, Proteusions, Redondo Beach Skin Divers, Reef Rogues, Santa Barbara Seals.

Santa Barbara Skin Divers, San Clemente Sea Lions, Sea Sabres, Sinkers,

Sea Urchins, Snorkel Snoopers, So. Calif. Water Dogs, Spear & Fin Club, South Bay Sea Knights, Surf Raiders, Tarpons, Venice Barracudas, and the "Y" Fins of Long Beach.

SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 1955—Competing clubs will be: Aqua Pisces, Aqua Explorers, Davey Jones Raiders, Downey Abgrabbers, El Sereno Skin Divers, Genenamies, Hell Divers of Norwalk, Kelp Kings of Alhambra, Kelptomaniacs, Kelp Worms, Kingfishers, Koral Kats, Long Beach Neptunes, Los Alamitos Sea Combers, Los Angeles Aquarium Society, Los Angeles Athletic Club, Los Angeles Neptunes.

Les Tortue de la Mer, Makos, McCulloch Mermen, Men O Mar Club, Newport Harbor Submariners, Ocean Gogglers, Palisades Deepsters, Pasadena Beach Barons, Pomona Valley Skin Divers, Pescadores, Rays, Reef Combers, Reef Raiders, Santa Barbara Orcas, Sea Barons, Sea Devils, Sea Downers, Sea Lancers of Santa Monica, Sea Rogues.

Sea Scouts, Sea Stalkers, Serpents, Sharks Underwater Adventurers, Snorkels, Sons of the Beaches, Southern California Morays, So. Calif. Skin Divers, Sunday Skin Divers, San Bernardino Reefers, Triggerfish, Val Ray Divers, Water Bugs, Wilmington Sea Devils and the Sea Angels.

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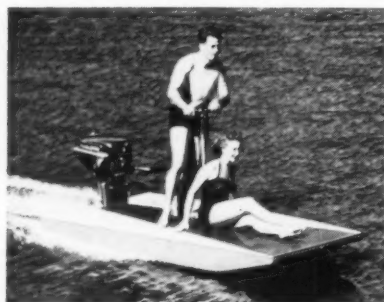
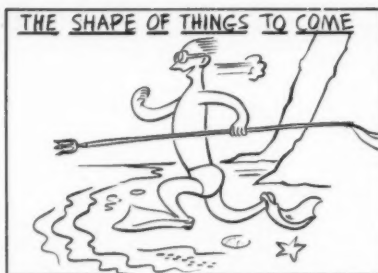
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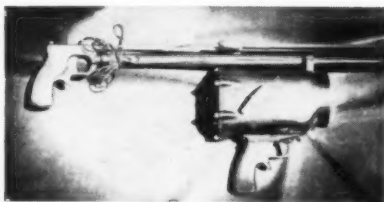
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might be completely foreign and mis-
understood by a diver in Florida. The
reverse also applies. The same goes for
Washington and California and vice
versa.

At the suggestion of Bill Barada,
Southern California skin diver, we are
going to compile a dictionary of terms
and words that have been made by this
new sport. To be absolutely correct in
the meanings of these words all over the
nation we are asking that you, the active
divers, send us your interpretations of
all of the slang words and diving terms
as you know them. This dictionary will
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DICK ANDERSON with the one man submarine built by his friend James Monroe. Tests were successful, with extended testing and cruising due in the near future.

One Man Submarine Test

By DICK ANDERSON

When my friend James R. Monroe, called me recently and told me that he had a new improved one man sub he wanted me to try out I was anxious to see what he had come up with and give it a test run. I remembered the sub I had tested for Monroe in March 1955 and the anticipation was starting to get me. The '53 model worked very well for a start but it needed some changes. For one thing it had too much surface area for good maneuverability and the air cylinders for the air motor caused too much variation in buoyancy.

When Monroe brought the new sub over for my examination I saw that he had these and other problems solved. The electric motor would push it at eight miles per hour for three hours and it was just large enough to insure stability in the water.

We decided to give it a test run at Santa Monica pier Sunday, May 1. and see if it would live up to our expectations. The only drawback on Sunday was that it had rained for two days previous and the water resembled coffee, with three and one-half inches for visibility. I donned my skin diving gear, mask, fins, foam rubber suit, and breathing apparatus, all of which were supplied by Healthways, and the sub was lowered

into the water by the boat hoist. I went in after it.

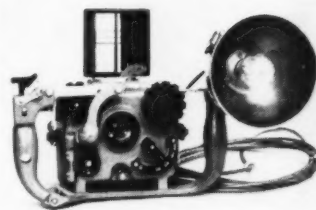
After unhooking the hoist cable and tearing my suit on one of the diving planes, I climbed on and pushed the lever to full speed. I don't know how fast it looked from the pier where the spectators were watching but where I was—it was plenty fast. I was planing across the surface of the water as I cruised around in front of the pier, just feeling out the controls. I pushed the controls into dive position and dive we did. Since there was absolutely no visibility I could only guess where the bottom was and I leveled out just in time to feel the keel gently touch the bottom. Surfacing was no problem for the sub but I had visions of coming up under one of the boats in the harbor. Fortunately I didn't. It was amazing how well the little sub handled. I took it to the bottom several times and even maneuvered it through the pilings of the pier—on the surface, of course!

The demonstration spoke for itself, the little sub was a big success. After the trial I gave Mr. Monroe, the inventor, my sincere congratulations. I was asked by many of the spectators what the sub could be used for. In answer I stated my belief that the sub would be excellent for underwater photography, searching and for any situation that required speed and maneuverability underwater with little exertion. Different departments of the Navy have all ready shown their interest in the sub by their inquiries as to its adaptability to military use.

As for my own opinion, I can truthfully say that it is all I hoped it would be and we can hardly wait until we can get in some clear water so I can see where I am going.

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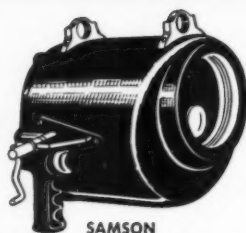
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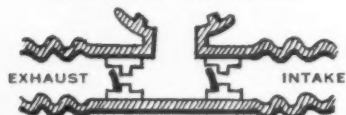
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GOOD WATER IN ANTIGUA

By PETE LESLIE

Pushing aside the many books required by a Princeton freshman, I packed up my skin diving equipment and boarded a southbound airliner for Antigua, "Where There is Sun Every Day of the Year." This island, whose many points form beautiful bays and curving beaches, is 108 square miles and about 16 miles across at any point. Antigua belongs to England and is located about 250 miles southeast of Puerto Rico. The isle is surrounded by a myriad of coral reefs, but one cannot find good water for diving everywhere this coral grows. Many spots, especially on the west side of the island, tend to have cloudy water, and the reefs are often shallow and very flat, thus discouraging the presence of big fish. There are, however a great many topnotch spots where one can dive, spear, or take photos. Specifically, these are located on the east end of the island near the several islands just off the shore of the Mill Reef Club.

In these waters one finds large coral heads cut by numerous tunnels and caves in which hide an abundance of groupers and other sedentary game fish. Ulua, Parrot fish, and many other large fish which I was not able to identify were plentiful. Barracudas are extremely abundant. If they are not following you from the minute you enter the water they will make their presence known as soon as a fish is speared. Sharks did not seem as plentiful as the "cudas" but nevertheless they are present. One almost grounded himself trying to get at two of us while we were cleaning fish in shallow water. Unfortunately, I saw only one ray, a leopard ray, which was at least six feet across, but nothing compared to the mantas I saw last summer in the South Pacific. This ray was extremely beautiful and I was very annoyed that I had



brought my arbalette instead of my underwater movie camera for that particular dive. I was very amazed that I never saw a moray eel. In short, this water is excellent either for the spearfisherman or the underwater photographer like myself.

There is a general apathy to skin diving on Antigua, but there are several divers who are very good. Jerry Grones of St. John's and Rene Marquax-Ruix of English Harbour are both experienced divers who are pleased to dive with visitors to their island. Rene, typical of all French divers, is excellent. He can dive to at least 70 feet without oxygen and usually come up with a good-sized grouper. Once he is in the water it is very hard to get him out he is so enthusiastic. Diving with him was a little discouraging to a beginner like myself. When I would make a stupendous effort diving to 40 feet he would invariably double my effort. The most enjoyable part of diving with Rene was that he had about as poor a command of English as I do of French, thus communication was very amusing.

In short, here is a lovely little isle for a quiet vacation which is at the same time an unexplored skin divers paradise.

Shark Attacks, Kills

John Willis, age 13, was attacked and killed by a "mad-shark" off Balmoral recently. Willis is the first spearfisherman killed by a shark in Australia. After the attack the shark, described as being a killer hungry for blood, tried to enter a rock pool in which 60 small children were bathing. Willis was spearfishing in a deep hole 25 yards from Wyargine Point when the shark, a 12 foot grey nurse, made its appearance. Horrified people on the beach heard the diver yell "shark, shark," and then scream. They saw him beat the water with his hands and swim 25 yards to the rocks on the headlands. Doctors reported that the shark had mauled both legs and the right arm. Willis was dead when he reached the rocks. Experienced spearfishermen have always regarded the Balmoral rocks area as being among the safest in Sydney Harbor.



RENE MARQUAX-RUIX of Antigua on the beach with recently captured sea turtle.—Photo from Pete Leslie.

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LEON PADDOCK AND TROUPE TO INVADE BAHAMAS

The Bahamas Islands will be invaded this summer by five Los Angeles skin divers who have been exploring the Palos Verdes and Laguna waters these many years, and now seek new territory in the underwater world. The expedition will consume sixty days cruising in tropical waters around uninhabited islands with movie cameras. They are going principally to make a new film of the world of the skin diver, and will include the many strange bottom-dwellers, multi-colored fish, and magnificent coral gardens. They will also film the coral reef-builders building a 7000 foot mountain; a stony barrier which can break a steel ship in half, as well as entrancingly beautiful scenery in the shallows.

Leon Paddock, well known for his film, "Spear That Fish," filmed in Mexico and shown in many clubs around the southland, has been organizing the expedition for a year. Fred Howard, Jack Chase, Gary Schnabel, and Jerry Packard, all Southern California residents, will leave with Paddock on May 20. Several new pieces of equipment will be shown in use underwater, as well as techniques of underwater photography, by using two underwater cameras.

A zoological study of fish and other animals will have a definite reference to evolution. Many animals alive in the sea today are no different than their ancestors which lived eons ago. They became perfectly adapted to their environment way back then, and haven't changed since then. This evidence, in contrast to the modern man-in-Aqua-lung, will be the basis of the film. Scenes of man's ability to survive when necessary, by using his ingenuity and knowledge of the land and sea and the living things, will be included.

MR. "BUCK" RAY, General Manager of Florida's Silver Springs presents Burton McNeely, Publicity Director of the Florida Skin Diver's Association, a \$250.00 check from BKO Studios which was given in appreciation of their assistance during the premiere of the film "UNDERWATER!" which was held underwater at Florida's Silver Springs in January. So, of course the check was presented Underwater! The money will be used for conservation purposes.



CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF DIVING CLUBS

By HOMER J. LOCKWOOD, President

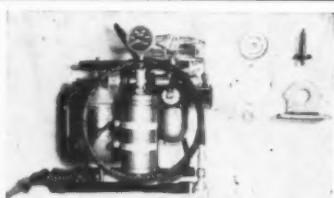
Many times the question is asked, "What is the California Council of Diving Clubs, and why should I be interested in it?" The unattached diver particularly is prone to be far more interested in a day's diving with little or no concern about the more serious aspects of his hobby. When this sport was first coming into prominence about five years ago a few of the more experienced men and women realized that something more than individual club action would be required to solve the problems arising as more and more people went under the sea for recreation.

The present Council composed of delegates from over fifty clubs in the state was the result. As the Council members were composed solely of the members of the clubs that had joined, it was still not possible for the man who for one reason or another did not wish to join a club. At the March general meeting of the Council

this policy was changed, and anyone can secure a Contributing Membership Card for one dollar per year. Just send your name and address and the necessary buck to 352 Smith Street, Long Beach 5.

The next question asked is "What do they do with the money, and how will it help me?" In this session of the Legislature we have introduced five bills to help our sport. One of the most important—AB1975, which closes the coast of Southern California from Gaviota to San Diego to commercial abalone diving is in committee meeting as of the present writing, and is having opposition from San Diego. It takes money to send people to Sacramento to present our views, and this is the most effective way to get action. We have to pay our share of the cost of having a legislative representative in Sacramento through our membership in the California Wildlife Federation. Telephone bills, telegrams, postage, and stationery all take funds.

If you want better diving conditions tomorrow, or for the future for your own youngsters, join the Council now!



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LONG BEACH, CALIF., YMCA SKIN DIVING AND SCUBA CLASSES

The new class, scheduled to start Wednesday, June 22, will be limited to the first 50 men and women who sign up. Applications are being taken now at the Long Beach YMCA. We suggest that you act at once in order not to miss out on this great opportunity. Phone the Long Beach YMCA—72737, and leave your name, address and phone number. For additional information ask for Al Fish, Physical Director. Skin diving instructor Rory Page will again be in charge of the group which will meet in the "Y" pool on Wednesday nights from 7 to 9 p.m., starting June 22. The course will run all summer ending on September 7th.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY INSTRUCTORS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

To meet the many requests for instruction in skin diving and open circuit demand type underwater breathing units, the County of Los Angeles Dept. of Parks and Recreation has launched a new 10 week, 24 hour course to certify qualified instructors in this field. Experienced skin divers interested in taking the course should contact Wm. E. Starr at the Los Angeles County Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 834 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles 15, California. Telephone RI 75511. This program is the first of its kind and will provide the public with certified skin diving instructors. We feel that this is a necessary step to guarantee the public a standardized instruction program.



GUY CADIEUX on right and assistant at the Montreal Sportsman's Show. Cadieux stayed underwater for 25 hours and 7 seconds. Photographer Mike Gravel. Photo submitted by International Trades.

New Underwater Endurance Record

MONTREAL, CANADA, April 7, 1955—Another underwater endurance record was made here during the Montreal Sportsman's Show. Guy Cadieux stayed underwater for 25 hours and 7 seconds, thus breaking the previous underwater stay as reported in the "Hydrophone" last month by Richard Ferg of 24 hours, 22 minutes. Cadieux was fed a steady diet of solids and liquids throughout the duration of his stay underwater. Meat, fruit, malted milk, coffee and apple juice were fed to him by other divers. The liquids were piped into him. The tank had a 4000 gallon capacity, was 9 feet in diameter, 10 feet high and was primarily made from an old oil tank with one-third of it cut out into a plastic window 1/8 inch thick. Ed Fisher made the first record of this kind by staying on a Florida reef, under natural conditions, for 24 hours, and 3 minutes.

Cadieux was joined by other divers at frequent intervals, they played cards together and changed his air supply every 45 minutes.

Hartford, Conn., YMCA Completes Safety Course By STEF TJAARDA and JERRY WILKIN

Seventy eight men and boys signed up this year for our annual underwater safety classes, which are held each year at the YMCA of Greater Hartford. These classes emphasize underwater safety and shallow water equipment usage. At the opening day of the course, a large display of modern diving equipment was exhibited, which showed equipment from all over the world.

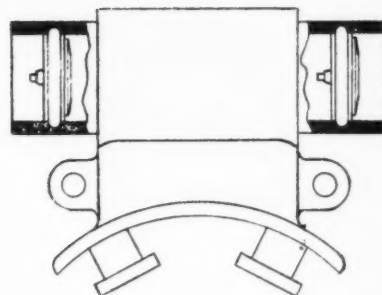
A special session was held on breathing tactics, hyperventilation and physical fitness in relation to underwater swimming. Gerrold Hart, a graduate of Springfield College demonstrated hyperventilation tactics and physical fitness exercises, originated by that famous physical educator Dr. Thomas Kirk Cureton. The program also included the proper use of footfins, diving lung safety, underwater target shooting, elements of diving science, popular oceanography and a host of other subjects related to skin diving.

At the end of the course, members will be tested as to underwater safety and knowledge of equipment.



SOME OF THE "Y" MEMBERS taking the Hartford Y Underwater Safety Course try on the rubber suits and diving lungs. From left to right: Jim Seminare, Dick Warner, Marion Chaplicki and Dick Angus.—Photo submitted by Stef Tjaarda.

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Rene Cavalero

(Continued from Page 17)

1941 this submarine gun invented by Cavalero, short, easy to manage, and buoyant enough to float, has become a preferred weapon among many divers throughout the world today.

Then arrived that hectic period of the occupation. Thanks to his submarine hunting, Rene could eat during those days of trial. The shores of France were still full of fish. At every dive he brought up 15 or 20 kilos of fish which he could exchange for fats and meat. It was at this time that to be of help to his friends, he began to manufacture the "Champion" guns. Following the war, the ever increasing vogue of this sport and the thought of delicious "daurade or sea wolf" on the family dinner table, assumed an enviable aspect and so the orders for guns began to multiply. Since then the manufacture of his undersea equipment has grown to great proportions. Contrary to other manufacturers who had been making guns with metal springs, he remained faithful to his system of strong elastic cords. His faith has been justified, for many champions have won, using his equipment.

It is difficult to say which of the adventures of Rene Cavalero were the most hazardous. His most sensational catch, however, was one day at Planier at the foot of the lighthouse which protects the port of Marseille, which is located 14 kilometers from the city. Among the rocks at this point can be found a great abundance of fish. It is rather dangerous place for navigation and several boats have gone down there. However, near these rocks exist numerous species of fish. One finds sea wolfs, daurades, muges of great size, murenes, rock fish, saupes huge merous, verdaus, lucresces, pei-cous and bonita. This time he came out with 60 kilos of fish of which one murene weighed 11 kilos. But the greatest specimen which he has caught during his career was a merou weighing 27 kilos. This is not astonishing since several of his colleagues have brought out merou of greater weight. For example, his friend Rene Gody captured a merou at Ronveau which weighed 32 kilos. It must be said that there are yet many beautiful specimens of fish in the Mediterranean Sea. Rene Cavalero believes in and fully enjoys undersea hunting. He considers it to be a realization of the fiction of Jules Verne.

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Diving Around . . .

San Diego

By JIM MERTEN

Erv Brandon reports that the Penguins, of Lemon Grove, have returned from a weekend of splendid diving at Rosarita Beach, B. C. The members of this newly formed club have recently been checked out in SCUBA units by Frank Pederson.

On May 1st the La Jolla Skinners chartered the Polarto II and spent the day in that beautiful clear blue water off the Coronado Islands. Several nice fish were taken in the 15 pound class.

The Sea Dogs have been active with dives scheduled for nearly every Saturday and Sunday, according to their newly-elected President, Nick Mann. Several of their members were spearing off Point Loma not long ago working in nice schools of Sheepshead. When all the blood in the water attracted the Blue Sharks to move in, skin divers were last seen heading for the beach like crazy.

Earl Murray was seen last Sunday with so much Black Sea Bass protruding from the rear of his little rambler that there was some doubt as to who was driving. Earl reported that his bass weighed about 150 pounds and that of his diving partner, Jim Stewart, was a slightly small 125 pounder.

Six more divers, John Woodward, Jerry Taylor, Roy Wehlage, Bill Hardy, Harvey Brown and Fred Johanson, have just returned from four days at San Quintin, B. C., which is about 200 miles south of San Diego. All indicated that they had a wonderful trip and were anxious to return; however, little was mentioned about the size or quantity of fish speared!

Don Dorst, Desco factory field man from Milwaukee, was diving this past week with yours truly, using Desco's brand new Air Master Regulator and also their full face unit. Our California abalone really attracted Don's fancy and he agreed with me that La Jolla is among the great skin diving spots of the world.

On July 10th all roads lead to the Southern Border Association Spearfishing Championships to be held at the Casa De Manana Cove in La Jolla.

For Skin diving news and subscriptions, call HUDSON 8-6876.

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BILL STOKELY, North Hollywood Triton and puffer fish, Guaymas, Mexico.



TOP—Rhode Island Underwater Spearfishing Club, Tom Morrison, Dan Prescott and Al Point at Jerusalem, R. I., April 1st. BOTTOM—Ebtiders Club of Southern California.



SAM ICHIKAWA, Nisei Kelp Tangler, speared this 75 lbs. grouper at Punta Penasco, Mexico, last November. —Photo by Hank Nunokawa.

Legislation

A Brief of the Florida Situation

(The following was taken from a letter written by a prominent Florida diver, one very close to the present legislative problem in that state today.)

"...Commercial fishing and party fishing interests are among the most powerful groups in Florida, unfortunately, some of the persons running the organization are personally opposed to spearfishing and are doing a very good job of giving us a bad name. In addition the same persons are members of the outdoor writers association, so that it is impossible to get a fair press except in local situations and even then it's hard. This group had a program set up long ago and it is letter perfect in its aim to get rid of all spearfishing. We too, have our plans and spies, we know that they

are spending huge sums of money to hire a full time man to fight us, that they have gone to a great deal of trouble to "get us" and that it is just a matter of time until there will be no spearfishing in Florida—if we don't fight with everything we have.

"...As an example of what's going on: the committee that our bill (the bill to forever legalize spearfishing) will have to go through was shifted to include every member of the House of Representatives that was planning to introduce an anti-spearfishing bill or they were known to be opposed to spearfishing. Seven of the 13 committee members are against us.

"...Another smooth deal by the opposition was: we had three speakers lined up to speak at a commercial fishermen's meeting, the opposition had the pressure put on to the effect that if they went they would lose their jobs.

"...In addition, if our bill doesn't pass there are seven local bills that pass automatically without discussion to outlaw spearfishing in seven Gulf counties. Since our bill will take precedent over the local bills, they are waiting to see what happens..."

The Florida situation is serious, see their full report in the May issue, you as a diver should do everything you can to help the resident Florida divers in their fight to stay in the water. Money is needed

—as reported last month they have collected nearly \$1000 in their fight for survival, this is not enough, more is needed. Have your pledge in dollars sent to the Conservation Fund Committee, 906 Ocean Drive, Hollywood, Florida.

People from all over the nation have and will visit the Florida waters to enjoy this greatest of sports, they have water conditions and weather for the maximum enjoyment of diving as we know it... however if this is taken away, ruled illegal by the present legislation and bigoted persons opposing underwater hunting there today it will take years of work and piles of money to retract the rulings. Pledge dollars to this fight—if no dollars are available, write to your friends there and impress upon them what underwater swimming and hunting means to you, and to them. ➤

SAFETY SUGGESTION from Earl C. May, Gainesville, Florida... Each boat should have two anchors and each swimmer should put out his anchor the moment he leaves the boat. Earl relates that he left the anchor task up to the last man out of the boat once and he forgot to drop it. When the divers looked up the boat was just in sight and they were eight miles out. They barely made it. ➤

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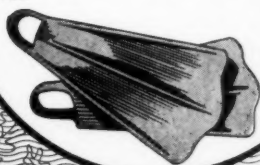


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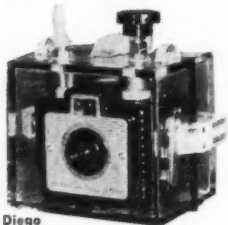
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Ivanovic's Visit

(Continued from Page 19)

try out his "Mae West" gear used for shooting big fish.

After an excellent curry lunch at Matara Resthouse, helped down with copious supplies of Mango Chutney, followed by a siesta, the party set off once more for Dondra. Ivan used Rupert Gile's Aqualung to look for the big Grouper with Giles in attendance on the aqualunger. The "Big Boy" was not at home and after looking in several caves Ivan headed for shore as the air supply was getting low. In the meantime, Rodney had got himself a 30 lb. Caranx and four "Blues." Langston too had some good fishing in that area. The local population were most indignant to see so much fish being brought out of "their sea" and howls and catcalls greeted the spearfishermen. Rodney expounded a little philosophy and Ivan was utterly charming without knowing a word of the language and the party got away intact.

The following morning "Operation Shark" was under way. It was decided to enter the water at the same spot used by Rupert and Langston the previous day. Rodney, Langston and Rupert swam ahead in tight formation and Ivan equipped with "Mae West" and many feet of heavy nylon cord and quick release gear brought up the rear. Rodney was the first to see the huge Caranx which passed just below him. Pointing his gun downwards, he hit the fish in the brain and it went cold. A second later Rupert's arrow thudded into its gills "just to make sure." A few sharks were seen, but they were very shy and Ivan did not get a chance to try out his "Mae West" equipment. The big fish was taken ashore and then with only a few more hours before the departure for Colombo, everyone concentrated on spearfishing. Rodney secured a fine 14 lb. Blue Caranx while Ivan was unfortunate to lose an arrow on a Pompano.

On being weighed at the Fish Market, the big Caranx was found to be 65 lbs. After several hours out of the water, it is safe to assume that it was all of 68 lbs. when shot. This is a record for Ceylon, but much larger ones are seen and there is fierce competition among the Reef-combers to secure one of the really large ones.

We hope Vane Ivanovic enjoyed his spearfishing trip to Ceylon. It was a pleasure and privilege to be with him for he is a gentleman both in and out of the water. Conditions were anything but good, but we made the best of it and enjoyed some grand sport. Come back again Vane. You will always be welcome in Ceylon.

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New York . . .

BELL AQUA CLUB

By JIM ROUSH

We believe the BAC club is one of the largest, if not the largest Scuba Organizations in the country. Membership totals more than fifty members, mostly Engineers and Technicians from Bell Aircraft Corp. Our equipment includes fourteen Scott Hydropaks, several aqua lungs, eight home-built lungs, four rubber suits, a compressor (5 cfm) with trailer, and a rubber raft with a motor. We have only been organized since last September, but we expect to grow considerably this summer.

The past winter months were spent in survival training, practice with the equipment, and experimentation with camera cases, underwater lights, and depth gages.

Our chief worry has been, and still is, safety. We have contacted most of the sporting goods stores in Buffalo, and offered our help to anyone who purchases a lung. We have discovered that most local lung salesmen are not too well qualified in briefing prospective divers in the use of Scuba. We have asked these salesmen a few pertinent questions ourselves, and here are some of the answers we received:

Q. Do you need to be able to swim?

A. Nah! Anyone can lung dive!

Q. How deep can I go?

A. Three or four hundred feet . . . probably . . .

Q. What about ear plugs?

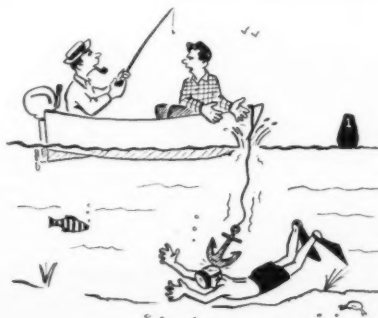
A. I have some dandies right here—

Q. Do I need any special training?

A. Just turn on the valve, and there you are!

. . . and here we are, terrifying isn't it? This is what we are up against in a relatively new skin diving area.

We would welcome any correspondence from other clubs or prospective members regarding club activities, group participation, etc. Write to me at Bell Aircraft Corporation, Post Office Box One, Buffalo 5, New York.



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Rhode Island . . .

UNDERWATER SPEARFISHING CLUB

By ALBERT POINT

Several members of the R. I. U. S. C. (Rhode Island Underwater Spearfishing Club) have been diving along the Rhode Island Coast this winter. Mark O'Brien was in first, during the last of February. Several dives have been made during March by Dan Prescott and myself. Rubber suits, woolen underwear, water tight gloves and a woolen skull cap were indispensable. The water temperature was very low, probably 37° to 40°. Visibility has been good from approximately 10 to 20'. No sign of any undersea life has been seen. The fish apparently have sense enough to stay out of cold water. Rebreathers have been used with pretty fair success on some of these dives, although the oxygen consumption is much more than normal. Our club has been meeting once a week at the Pawtucket Boys Club in R. I. About 10 to 15 of our members turn out regularly. We practice with diving equipment and have varied activities.

During February several members attended the annual award dinner in New York to receive a third place trophy for last year's East Coast Championships. Team members were Ted Parquett, Tom Morrison and myself. Ted Parquett's 45-lb. striped bass, caught last summer on a skin diving trip, has been put up for a possible record.

Skin Diving Safety Book

The California Council of Diving Clubs has just received from the press a new booklet on underwater safety. Written by Safety Director, Bill Walker, and illustrated by E. H. Stedman, the book is not technical, and easily read. It contains a lot of the information necessary for the beginner, and is a good refresher for the experienced diver. The proper use of a gear, breathing units, boats, and handling of spear guns is covered thoroughly and simply. It sells for 30c postpaid by writing to 2612 Thoreau St., Inglewood 1, California. Send for your copy; it may save your life!

Congrats and Regrets

Congratulations and regrets may seem a bit odd but in this case it is very appropriate. The congratulations are in order to "DUC Dives" for their second anniversary of publication. "DUC Dives" is the official club magazine for the Durban Undersea Club of Durban, South Africa. On the occasion of their birthday anniversary "DUC Dives" also announces that they suspending publication, thus the regrets. The memographed magazine will have a complete face lifting and will hereafter appear under a complete new format, new name, new editors, with pictures, prominent advertisements and all the trimmings. Congratulations and regrets to "DUC Dives," and our best wishes on your new enterprise.



HAPPY FISHERMAN and helpful diver Joe Dalling again show the good relations between skin diver and fisherman. The line fisherman's line became entwined around the propeller of Pete Leonard's cruiser "Night Wind". Result one big mass of line and tackle that only a diver with his underwater eyes could unwind. — Photo by Al Deane; Submitted by Sheila LeClercq.

California . . .

POLY DIVERS

By STEW KIPP

The Polly Divers have been slowed down a bit lately by the dirty water and bad weather, but not too much since we don't see clear water often enough to really miss it. The club has been blessed by the addition of several new members. Wes Kauder, ex L. B. Neptune who has been showing us how you southerners do things, and Jim Terres who knows how to turn a collection of parts into a lung. They are a couple who are valuable additions. Two of our members recently spent a day with Keith Cox, Fish and Game biologist, at the commercial abalone beds north of Morro Bay. An interesting fact was discovered, some abalone are better than other abalone, and some people can tell which is which just by looking. The abalone from the commercial beds were so superior to the inshore variety, that some of our members have had to be restrained from swimming straight out to sea.

Wonders never cease. this group of individualists has finally decided to elect officers and write a constitution and such. They found out that the college just might make it a little easier to get that precious commodity, air, if there was someone to accept the bill. ☛

California . . .

SAN FRANCISCO DIVING CLUB

By DICK SHANKEL

We lost one of our club members in March. Ed Poe, one of the founders of our club and last year's President, was called back on a staff assignment for his company. The club would like to wish Ed the best of luck on his new job.

There was a diving trip to Fanshell Beach, where we got our limits of abalone. George Formanek and Bill Schirmer got an octopus. We speared some fish, and I'm telling you there was a Labazone down there at least 30 inches long, but I never got a shot at it—honest. Wellas.

After breaking the seal on my suit, which dumped about half the Pacific Ocean in my suit, I was raring to go—some that is, but the boys said, "Let's go get some of those big ones," so out we went again, speared a few fish, came back in and headed for home.

We skin dived for about two hours. Bill Mixon was shooting movies, when he discovered that his camera case was leaking. I have never seen anyone head for the beach so fast in my life. No damage to the camera or film, glad to report.

We have two new members to add to our club logs. Bill Schirmer and Phil McKernan. Glad to have you with us wellas. ☛

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California . . .

NORTH HOLLYWOOD TRITONS

By BILL STOKELY

After hours and hours of hectic preparations like: getting visas, lining up gear, buying canned food, borrowing camping equipment, and packing many other necessities, we left. As some of you may know Guaymas is a 850 mile trip from Los Angeles, some ride. Everything went fine until we reached Tucson, Arizona where we developed car trouble. It was nothing serious so we continued on to Guaymas.

Twenty-two hours after we left Los Angeles we arrived near San Carlos Bay tired but happy. The following days of our trip were spent diving in the area. With the waters murky the visibility ranged from 7 to 10 feet. The cause of the murky water was billions of little fish which literally hung in clouds over the rocks. A few grouper were seen but they were very spooky. A few of the fish taken were cabrilla, puffer fish, snapper, and a variety of other colorful fish. The largest fish taken was Dick Taylor's sixty-five pound sting ray. On the last day there I connected with a six foot leopard shark. I now have one bent and busted shaft.

As for drinking water it can be bought bottled in town. You also should bring your own fruits. Accommodations can be had for reasonable rates at the Miramar Hotel, they also have a fine trailer park. Although our trip didn't scare up many large fish fun was had by all. Plans are being made now for another trip because we know that the fish are there.

California . . .

MEN-O-MAR

By VAN COOMBS

Everyone in the club is on pins and needles waiting for Memorial Day weekend. The club is making a trip to just below Ensenada for some diving in those warm Mexican waters. We've been getting some big ones in our dreams and hope to do so on the trip. If you could see all the gear we are gathering up you would think we are going for a month instead of three days.

Some of the club members traveled to the Halfway House in Mexico last month and found diving poor. On the way back they stopped off at La Jolla and were told that fish, abs and bugs were scarce. Some of the die-hards went in anyway carrying only small hand spears and knives. They said the bugs were crawling all over the place, abs on every rock and fish swimming in every direction. This proves the theory. "Don't believe everything you hear." Bob Givens was snooping around on the bottom looking in some holes in the rocks and he came upon the tail of a fish. He reached out and measured the tail with his hand, said it reached from the tip of his thumb to the tip of his little finger. It was a leopard shark about 4½ feet long. He looked at his hand spear and then the shark and came in, a wise decision don't you think?

On our last dive at Corona Del Mar, two of the boys caught a nice spider crab which measured three feet in diameter, and about a nine in. shell and pinchers the size of your hand.

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SKIN DIVER—JUNE—41



MISS LOONEY GOONEY
1955, Minnie Minard. The Looney Gooneys have lots of thanks due them for their natural good humor and goodwill through their participation in demonstrating equipment and demonstrating safety features of diving at the various shows in the San Francisco area. — Photo by Les Waddell.

California . . .

HIGH TIDE BUTCHERS

By GUS MENDOZA

This being our first appearance in the "Skin Diver" we would like to extend our greetings to all the other clubs. Our club was originated a couple of months ago. So far there are twelve members in our club. We all vary in age from sixteen to eighteen years. Our officers are President, Gus Mendoza; Vice President, Paul Russel; Secretary, Jerry Bredlau, and Treasurer, Larry Hank Hammer. Our sponsor is John Fidone a swell fella who owns and operates a party fishing boat and does some commercial fishing. We have done spearfishing all along the Southern California coast line. We plan to go to Catalina Island within a couple of weeks.

In closing we would like to invite any young man who is interested to write to Gus Mendoza, 2251 W. 12th St., Los Angeles. We hold our meetings at the Normandy playground in Los Angeles. We would appreciate any correspondence from you fellas in the other clubs, thank you.

Washington . . .

THE BEACHCOMBERS

By JOHN E. FRIARS

In a recent move to benefit club members. The Beachcombers engaged a lawyer to handle all details and draw up necessary papers for incorporation. As a result, the club is now incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Washington.

Recent activity has included several highly enjoyable sessions with member Pete Leonard's well-designed, and highly maneuverable sea-sled, and the pursuit of the elusive rock scallop (these well-camouflaged bivalves average 6-8 inches across and weigh as much as 8 pounds in this area—good eating, too). Most recent spearfishing catches have ranged from 25 pounds on down.

It is rumored that club social chairman Bud Abbey is planning a humdinger of an early summer luau, complete with extensive eating, beverage consuming, bonfires, and ukeles in the moonlight. Also on the list of activities for coming months will be a 16mm color-sound movie on Northwest diving, produced, directed and acted by club members. The club treasury will finance the project.

California . . .

KELPTOMANIACS

By BEECH LASWELL

This month we would like to welcome a few fine divers and good men into our ranks. Harold Hansen, Ken Brown, and Gordon Thorin. We are very happy to have our ranks filling out with such excellent new comers. All our new prospective members have been passing their swimming, diving, and safety tests with great gusto and fine performance. We even made the requirements quite a bit stiffer this year to keep our membership from growing too fast, and to admit into the club only the hardier and more enthusiastic divers.

Next year our inter-club competition to determine our three man team to represent us in the elimination should be quite interesting and competitive.

Our team this year is Cliff Dietrich, Michael Harrold and myself, with Gates Brown as replacement standby.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all the teams entered in the A. A. U. Pacific Coast Elimination and Regional Championships the best of luck and hope we can all keep the safety record high again this year.

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New Jersey ...

DIVING JETS

By JAY M. BARTELS

A weekend trip to Montauk Point, Long Island, March 19th-20th marked completion of our club's first year of "Around the Calendar Outdoor Diving" during which time members experienced extreme variance in water temperatures. Considerable valuable experience and knowledge was gained in meeting the challenge of frigid water though the absence of many familiar underwater marine companions was conspicuous. The highlight of winter events was participation in the Annual Sport and Vacation Show in New York March 4th-13th where our exhibit attracted much attention and we met many new friends.

Other activities included outdoor demonstrations to various local Police and Fire Dept. officials showing the use of SCUBA and SALT (Submergence Appareil—Low Temperature) for water emergency missions such as recovery of drowned persons, etc. Meetings were well attended with club membership reaching thirty-seven. Weekly instructions and practice with different underwater gear with emphasis on safety has continued at the Paterson YMCA on Friday evenings throughout the Winter. The club has purchased a six-man inflatable type life raft to extend diving operations further offshore during the warmer months. A Sunday Safari to the American Museum of Natural History's Marine Exhibits and the showing of various underwater movies about concludes the list of winter activities.

Oregon ...

LES HOMMES DE MER

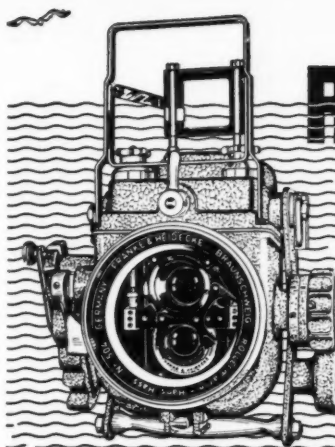
By VERNE WHEELWRIGHT

At last summer seems to be near, and the last few diving trips have been favored with reasonably clear weather. After diving all winter in freezing temperatures with poor underwater visibility, these occasional sunny days seem like paradise.

Since this is our first article to appear in the *Skin Diver*, it should be mentioned that our club came into official existence in February of this year with a charter membership of six. Our name is French and means "Men of the Sea."

Thus far our activities have consisted of monthly club meetings and diving trips nearly every weekend since the first of the year. Plans are now in the making for summer trips to the warmer waters of California and Mexico.

Any visitors to the Portland area who would like to do some diving are invited to call or drop in at the Bybee Grocery and meet Jerry Griffith who will put you in contact with the other club members.



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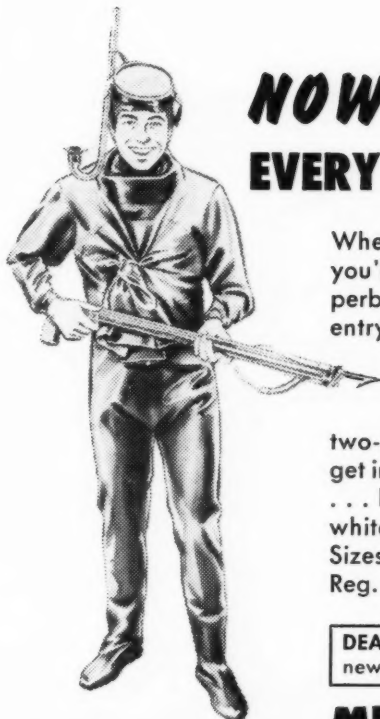
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New York . . .

FINGER LAKE FATHOMERS

By LARRY PRESTON

Since last report we have accepted several new members, with the possibilities of still more.

The club emblems are designed and in the process of being made. They have a gold background with both New York State and the Finger Lakes outlined in blue.

The water temperature is still too low for skin diving without rubber suits.

Through the efforts of some of our members the New York State Conservation Department has consented to open Comesus Lake for the spearing of carp only, from May 15 to July 1.

While this doesn't seem like too long a time, we feel this is a very good beginning, as it starts to open up inland waters of New York to spearing that are inhabited by game fish. »

California . . .

OAKLAND EELS

By BUD SPRAGUE

With the A. A. U. contest coming up this June 26, our club was faced with the problem of selecting our three candidates, the outcome being that we would have an intra-club contest with four "dives." Our first dive was last Sunday, April 23rd. The first competition was won by Jack Randall, after an interesting turn of events.

Roy Bridges our usually best armed diver, went on the competition dive sans stiletto. This was after much chiding and many snide remarks by the club members. Roy was one of the first to spear a fish, a nice three pound red cod, but the fish didn't have enough sense to cooperate. The little red devil swam through a grotto and tangled up Roy's line. Nature calling him, Roy went up for air then dove again with slack line trailing behind him. Still unsuccessful at retrieving the catch, Roy tried to surface again. This time the hundred pound test line tangled around his leg. Fortunately Roy could get air every time a trough went by him. After a couple of blood curdling yells, help arrived. What lungs; no wonder he's a good diver.

While Jack Tees, Chuck Gillingham, Dave Tees, and Jack Randall helped Roy out of his predicament, Jack Randall who is always fast to size up a situation, speared a 19½-lb. Ling Cod directly below Roy, which put him far ahead in the contest with 28-lbs., Jack Tees second 16½-lbs., and Chuck Gillingham third with 9½-lbs.

Moral: Always help a down trodden diver. »

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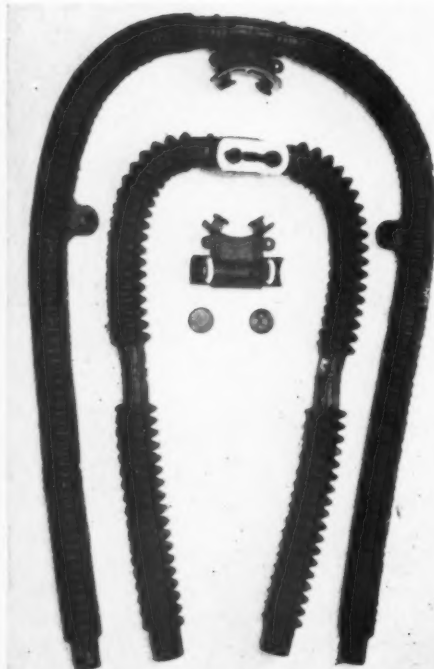


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Florida . . .

JAX NAVY SEA SEARCHERS

By H. C. "RED" MARTIN

Our diving club is new, having been formed only a little more than a month ago, and already we have about 20 members. All the members are Navy men and we hold our meetings at the Naval Air Station. Our president is Bill McCranie, who has had several years diving experience in California waters. The Safety Officer is John Redmond, ex-UDT man, who is well qualified in all phases of underwater work.

Most of our activity so far has been confined to instruction and qualifying tests in the 12 foot deep pool at the Air Station, as many of the members have not been active in some time. We have 8 members with lungs and at least 6 more are planning on buying them soon. We've been casing various spots along the coast in our area but haven't located much clear water as yet.

Four of us made a trip to Cedar Keys on the Gulf coast this past weekend to look over the possibilities. They would have been very good if it hadn't rained all day Saturday, with a 25 knot wind all day Sunday! We're going to try again as the local people say that the water is very clear during good weather.

We plan on giving the JETTY JUMPERS, another local club, some friendly competition in the very near future. And later on, we intend to join the AAU.

We would appreciate correspondence from any of the clubs. Please contact the author: Rt. 4, Box 35, Lot 155, Jacksonville, Florida.

California . . .

SANTA CRUZ DEVIL DIVERS

By P. B. SMITH

Let me bring you to the surface on what we have been doing here in Santa Cruz. The Devil Divers have had several abalone fries on the beach and enjoyed a 25-lb. octopus, which was discovered by Palmer Smith and assisted by Wayne Friesel and Carl Stearns.

We had a very good meeting which is on the 2nd Thursday of the month. Several prospective members were present. We also made plans for future beach parties and discussed plans for a demonstration on the proper use of skin diving equipment and the diving lung. This show is to be given at the Watsonville Y.M.C.A. on June 6th. All members will take part in the demonstration.

A contest is in full swing among the Devil Divers to see who can get the most points on fish over five pounds. In a period of six months. The winner to be awarded a trophy and will be eligible for the Central California Diving Meet.

California . . .

DAVEY JONES RAIDERS

By DI CARLO

Almost any Sunday morning along about 7:00 A.M. down at Long Beach's 7th Street Landing, you can see the yellow jacketed Raiders boarding the Raider destined for the seaward side of Catalina. Diving has been pretty good for us there this winter . . . sure to be better through the summer months.

Fishing with us the last few months have been the Downey Ab Grabbers, the Sharks of El Sereno and of course, those swell guys from the Southern Cal. Skin Divers. We had a couple members of the Douglas Tridents out one Sunday, too. There's a story connected to these fellows the Tridents! This particular day was bright and clear . . . we found a good grove to work and anchored in about 60 feet of water. We seemed to be slipping anchor so one of these fellows said he'd take a dive and see if we were caught . . . he dove and reported we were fine.

A few looks passed between us . . . 60 feet . . . everyone of us has heard of divers that could go down that far . . . but honestly how many of these divers had we ever met! We decided to play a little game of timing this fellow. Well a minute and a half is about average for a good diver . . . then one of the boys put

California . . .

LONG BEACH NEPTUNES

By HENRY DEL GIUDICE

Our last Beach meet was held at San Clemente Beach, diving over the South Reef approximately three-fourths of a mile offshore.

Boy, I'm telling you that's a long swim straight out without any diving to relieve

on a lung and our friend said he'd keep an eye on him.

We all agreed he really couldn't do much for the lung diver if he got into trouble. Later when the divers came back, the lung diver started talking a blue streak . . . there he was cruising along on the bottom . . . he said that naturally, he was all alone down there when looking square into his face, mask to mask is our deep diver . . . needless to say the lungman got quite a start . . . then he looked at the depth gauge on his wrist . . . it registered 80 feet! We all felt a little apologetic and a little amateurish!

Please remember if anyone would like to join a really fine club with plenty of activity all year-round . . . the Raiders are accepting memberships. Call Geo. Tombs at TO 6-3452 or come to one of our meetings at the Lynwood recreation center the first or third Tuesday of each month at 8:00 P.M.

the monotony. Then to top it all off when we got out there, there was nothing but lobsters. Those nasty crawly things just knew they were out of season. Al Hughes beat the rap though with a four and one-half pound sculpin. He had it wired until Ted Peterson arrived from the "briny dew" with four and one-half pounds of assorted demitasse denizens of the deep to tie it up.

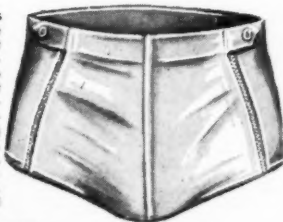
If that doesn't give you a clue to the kind of fishing we ran into nothing will.

Had a real gratifying experience the weekend before the bug season closed. We had a good day at Palos Verdes, and just as we topped the cliff our good friends the fish and game boys arrived. A nicer bunch of guys I've yet to meet, but here's the payoff. After weighing a nice 3 1/2-lb. bug I had picked up he said to us, "You know I never have to worry about you organized divers, especially the ones that wear the O.F.P.A. patch." Well if that doesn't go to show you. That \$1.00 O.F.P.A. dues not only helps the cause of the sport fisherman but buys good will too.

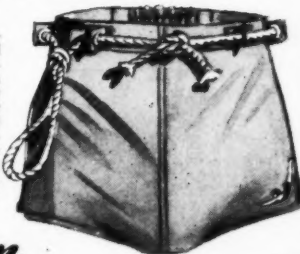
I understand that at a recent water safety meeting of the National Red Cross, California divers and specifically the Long Beach Neptunes were given a commendation by Mr. Brown, national director of water safety for the Red Cross for our safety program.

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Ohio . . .

CLEVELAND SKIN DIVERS

By T. C. WOODS, JR.

Cleveland, Ohio—The Cleveland Skin Divers enjoyed an active winter season with three dives under the ice in Lake Erie. The purpose—to obtain fish for the Cleveland Aquarium where research is being done on cold water effects. Peter Kay, President, reports growing interest and applications for membership due to good newspaper publicity.

Next dive planned is to the "Clevelco" in 80 feet of water. Other dives are planned to wrecks on the Canadian side which were charted by Gardner Abbott, the Club historian.

We are now affiliated with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and the Cleveland Aquarium. One research project for the Aquarium this summer will be specimen work on the life "pyramid" of Lake Erie. The last of the Great Lake to be explored, Lake Erie holds the promise of a lot of busy weekends for our Cleveland Club.

California . . .

KING NEPTUNE'S KNIGHTS

By FRANK HALL

Marv Clarke got the Spring activity ball rolling when he invited Ron Church, Cy Harding, and myself over to his house to make our own foam rubber wet suits. We didn't know they were so easy to make and to use.

Next came a series of dives, some of them well planned, advertised, and attended. A Catalina trip netted the largest catches of fish and lobster, the largest by Johnnie Carroll.

With competitive spirits soaring, a club meet was organized. Plaques would be awarded to Class A (experienced) and Class B (inexperienced) divers for the biggest fish, the three biggest alone, the most fish, etc. The first effort to hold the meet was April 24th at Coronado Del Mar. Jim Archer was there, also Ron Church, Marv Clarke, Frank Hall, Cy Harding, Ron Hurd, Ray Kendall, Gene Paleno, and Wilmer Trivett. But the water was so turbulent that the fish stayed in hiding, and the water was so cold that after an hour of looking, no tales got told. Result: nobody even saw an edible fish, and the meet was postponed until June.

Two trips to Guaymas, Mexico will soon be history. One, May 11-15, is being organized by Ron Church, and the other, May 26-31, by Marv Clarke.

Club business meeting attendance has soared since we began having movies and spearfishing at each meeting.

Japan . . .

TOKYO OASIS DIVERS

By W. G. HICKS

At last we have completed all plans and organized our Skin Diving club. We will call ourselves the TOKYO OASIS DIVERS. Since our installation is TOD (Tokyo Ordnance Depot), we have incorporated these same initials in our club name in order to further identify ourselves with our base.

We sincerely welcome all skin divers in this area to visit us and perhaps join one of our diving trips, the first of which will be held May 8. We plan on a trip every Sunday from that date on weather permitting. We also have plans to hold a club meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 3 P. M. and here again we welcome any diver who can visit us during the meetings.

Our total club membership is approximately fifteen men and women. Many others have professed an interest in our activity, therefore we expect to have a larger group shortly.

Our main base of operations will be the T. O. D. Service Club. Information can be obtained by calling Tokyo 968-538 and asking for the club hostess. Those wishing to contact the writer may call Tokyo 949-7861 after 6 P. M. ☞

California . . .

THE EBBTIDERS CLUB

By HAROLD GUSTAFSON

A big thanks to the *Skin Diver* from the Ebbtiders. Our first article appeared in the March issue and we were very pleased and surprised at the response from your readers in the San Gabriel Valley area who were interested in and wanted to join a skin diving group. Our membership has already doubled and our phones are still ringing. It proves to us once again "The Power of the Press."

Our latest project has been the building of neoprene full rubber suits. Seven of the members have already completed theirs. Last weekend three of the fellows tested the suits down at Divers Cove at Laguna Beach. They reported complete success as far as durability and warmth goes. didn't help the spearfishing, though.

Dewayne Wilson, Pres. and Don Gottschalk, Vice Pres. attended last month's meeting of California Council of Diving Clubs. Among the bits of info they brought back were tickets to the "Hard Times Dance" to be held May 23. Our club plans to attend en masse, sounds like a lot of fun and it's for a good cause. Are you going??? We were also given the opportunity to represent Council on Sat. April 23, at the Sportsman Show. More on that later. ☞

New Jersey . . .

AQUADUNKERS

By PHILIP SCOLA

New officers for the 1955 season were elected on March 22, by the Aquadunkers of New Jersey. To emphasize water safety in the Club, plans were made to give instructions on physical conditioning, detailed knowledge of equipment and diving hazards.

Plans were also completed for a joint Buffet Dance with the Diving Jets of Paterson, New Jersey, on April 30. Enthusiasm for this year's skin diving activities is high and the two-club dance is expected to open an active year.

Five or six members are busy building cases for cameras, both movie and still, and some of them have started testing their equipment in a water-filled quarry which has been a good testing site for several years. Since seven of the boys have rubber suits and eight have lungs, activities need not wait for warm water.

The most exciting activity of the season will undoubtedly be the seventeen-day skin diving vacation that six of the boys are planning to spend in the Florida Keys. This trip along with weekend trips to Montauk Point, Long Island, N. Y., should highlight an interesting year for the Aquadunkers. ☞

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FLINT AQUA ADDICTS

By T. J. MUCH

The interest in skin and lung diving has grown in the past year to great proportions in this area, where our lakes provide a major source of recreation. Therefore eighteen divers met last March and formed The Aqua Addicts to promote water safety and provide instruction in the use of underwater equipment. During March and early April we held a series of pool classes based approximately on E. R. Cross's manual, *Underwater Safety*. We intend to enlarge this program and we hope that most of the divers in this area will join us for their safety's sake. Anyone who is interested may contact our president, James "Doc" Dockery, at 2637 Brown Street in Flint.

Our first club dive was held April 17 at Lake Fenton. Those divers whose suits were in good repair found the 45 degree water fairly clear (visibility up to twenty feet) and teeming with gar pike and mudpuppies. A small gar and a bluegill were caught by hand and two anchors were brought up. Unfortunately our nemesis, the motorboaters, were also out in force to enjoy the first warm weekend of the year, and as usual they seemed to be more attracted than repelled by our warnings. Our next dive, on May 8, will be held at a private lake to avoid this danger.

California . . .

AQUA-KNIGHTS

By ALLEN BROWN

The Aqua-Knights were "April-Fooled!"

We bought extra equipment, rigged our guns for big fish, and did a large amount of planning for our Easter week trip. Friday night, April 1st, with high spirits and equally high anticipations we left for the "divers' paradise," Guaymas.

After a few troubles, like changing a tire, and giving up the broken tail-light and running dark, we arrived in Guaymas Saturday afternoon. It seems old Mother Nature whipped up a storm just before we got there, so we hunted everywhere for clear water, to no avail. As a last resort, we dove for about a half hour in the best water we could find, and pulled up a few small fish: snapper, angelfish, and bass. There were indications, however, that in clear weather, Guaymas would be an ideal spot. Oh, well, nice camping trip!

Compressed air in Guaymas has been advertised, but divers should not depend on it unless they are absolutely sure of it.

We have heard of some other groups under similar names, but we believe we are the original Aqua-Knights, having been formed in 1950.



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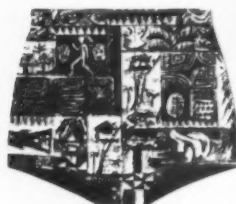
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Photo of the Jantzen-Pan American Airways-Swimmaster expedition to the Virgin Islands—
Nelson Mathison, Dolores Fisher, Mel Fisher.

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